

WEST INDIES.

CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO THE

VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS

IN

ST. VINCENT AND MARTINIQUE IN MAY, 1902,

WITH MAP AND APPENDIX.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1902.

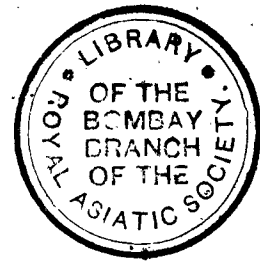


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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Colony, &c.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
			1902. —		
1	Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	Windward Islands.	(Rec. May 7) Telegram.	Reports slight earthquake disturbance during past week in north of St. Vincent, and that on May 6 dense cloud of steam arose from Soufrière.	1
2	Ditto ...	—	(Rec. May 7) Telegram.	Confirms report of eruption of Soufrière; alarmed inhabitants are swarming into Chateaubelair.	1
3	Ditto ...	—	(Rec. May 7) Telegram.	Reports his arrival at St. Lucia; fears eruption at Soufrière is very serious.	1
4	Ditto ...	—	(Rec. May 9) Telegram.	Reports return of British steamer "Roddam" with 17 of the crew dead, and with news of destruction of St. Pierre, Martinique. Requests that the French Government may be informed and that assistance may be sent to St. Lucia.	2
5	To Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	May 9 Telegram.	States that the Admiralty have been asked to send a ship to St. Vincent with assistance, and directs that he should return there as soon as possible and send full particulars. Authorizes such expenditure as is absolutely necessary to relieve distress.	2
6	To Admiralty ...	—	May 9	Requests that a ship may be sent to St. Vincent as soon as possible with assistance, and that the movements of the Governor may be facilitated in every way. Suggests that assistance should be given to Martinique should the necessities of the British Islands admit of doing so.	2
7	Administrator Bell	Dominica	(Rec. May 9) Telegram.	Reports eruption of volcano at Martinique, great distress; is sending £100 value provisions; all safe at Dominica.	3
8	Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	(Rec. May 10) Telegram.	Reports receipt of news from St. Vincent of thirty deaths and that the eruption is still proceeding; he is endeavouring to get back to St. Vincent.	3
9	Governor Sir F. M. Hodgson.	Barbados	May 8 (Rec. May 10) Telegram.	Reports eruption of Soufrière, St. Vincent; a telegram has been sent to the Governor, Windward Islands, offering assistance.	3
10	To Administrator Bell.	Dominica	May 10 Telegram.	Approves vote reported in No. 7; instructs him to telegraph any further information received.	3
11	To Governor Sir F. M. Hodgson.	Barbados	May 10 Telegram.	Acknowledges No. 9; asks for any further particulars.	3

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Colony, &c.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
			1902. —		
12	Admiralty	—	May 10	Transmits copy telegraphic correspondence with Naval Commander-in-Chief, Bermuda, showing that the "Indefatigable" has been ordered to render assistance to St. Vincent.	4
13	Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	(Rec. May 10) Telegram.	Reports that he is leaving at once for St. Vincent; eruption continues and cable still broken; urges request for man-of-war.	4
14	Ditto	—	(Rec. May 11) Telegram.	Reports that it is impracticable to return to St. Vincent, and he is awaiting the arrival of a man-of-war.	5
15	Administrator Bell	Dominica	(Rec. May 11) Telegram.	Reports destruction of St. Pierre by volcanic eruption, causing 40,000 deaths and the destruction of nineteen ships.	5
16	Commander-in-Chief, North America and West Indies to Admiralty.	—	May 10 (Rec. in Colonial Office May 11) Telegram.	Reports that His Majesty's ship "Pallas" has been instructed to proceed with supplies from Jamaica to St. Vincent, and that the Senior Naval Officer at Barbados has been directed to communicate with the Island of Martinique.	5
17	Governor Sir F. M. Hodgson.	Barbados	(Rec. May 11) Telegram.	Reports that Barbados is sending immediately to Martinique food supplies and two medical officers with equipment.	5
18	Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	(Rec. May 11) Telegram.	Reports that the damage to St. Vincent is confined to the north of the Island, and that the deaths are estimated at 500.	6
19	Administrator Bell	Dominica.	(Rec. May 12) Telegram.	Gives latest particulars of the Martinique disaster which is worse than at first reported; does not think Guadeloupe can adequately relieve distress.	6
20	Governor the Earl of Ranfurly.	New Zealand.	(Rec. May 12) Telegram.	Conveys expression of sympathy from the New Zealand Government with the French Government in the Martinique disaster.	6
21	Governor Sir C. Bruce.	Mauritius	(Rec. May 12) Telegram.	Requests that an expression of sympathy on behalf of Mauritius may be conveyed to the French authorities.	6
22	To Administrator Bell.	Dominica	May 12 Telegram.	States that Governor of Barbados is sending supplies and medical assistance to Martinique.	7
23	To Governor Sir F. M. Hodgson.	Barbados	May 12 Telegram.	Approves action reported in No. 17; awaits further report.	7
24	To Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	May 12 Telegram.	Communicates an expression of sympathy from His Majesty the King to the sufferers in St. Vincent.	7

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Colony, &c.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
			1902. —		
25	To Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	May 12 Telegram.	Requests that sympathy of the Secretary of State may be conveyed to the people of St. Vincent; gives authority to draw on the Crown Agents for £1,000 and more if necessary; requests to be informed of probable needs and expenditure, and names of any prominent residents killed or injured having relatives in this country.	7
26	Governor Sir G. S. Clarke.	Victoria	(Rec. May 13) Telegram.	Conveys message of sympathy from his Government with respect to the Martinique calamity, for communication to the French Government.	7
27	Acting-Governor Sir C. C. Knollys.	Trinidad	(Rec. May 13) Telegram.	Reports departure of local steamer on May 10 for Martinique conveying stores, medical comforts and two medical officers.	8
28	Governor Sir C. Bruce.	Mauritius	(Rec. May 13) Telegram.	Conveys expression of sympathy to St. Vincent from the Council of Government, and promise of immediate grant in aid of sufferers.	8
29	Governor Sir F. M. Hodgson.	Barbados	(Rec. May 13) Telegram.	Gives particulars of the St. Pierre disaster as reported by the Colonial Secretary and party just returned from Martinique and states relief steps taken.	8
30	To Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	May 13	Confirms Nos. 5 and 25 and awaits reports as to the extent of the disaster and the steps to be taken to give adequate relief.	8
31	To Governor Sir F. M. Hodgson.	Barbados	May 13	Acknowledges receipt of Nos. 9 and 17 and approves the prompt action taken to relieve the distress in St. Vincent.	9
32	To Administrator Bell.	Dominica	May 13	Appreciates the readiness of Dominica to render assistance to St. Pierre and confirms Nos. 10 and 22.	9
33	To War Office ...	—	May 13	Requests, pending the receipt of information, that instructions may be sent by telegraph to the Officers Commanding the troops at Barbados and St. Lucia to comply with any application for assistance received from the Governor of the Windward Islands.	9
34	Governor Sir G. T. Carter.	Bahamas	(Rec. May 13) Telegram.	Conveys Resolution of House of Assembly for communication to the French Government expressing sympathy with the French nation at the Martinique catastrophe.	10
35	Acting-Governor Sir G. Melville.	Leeward Islands.	(Rec. May 13) Telegram.	Repeats telegram from Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis stating that Executive and Legislative Councils urge authority for Government assistance to Martinique of foodstuffs to value of £100; enquires whether he may authorise the vote: foodstuffs will be sent to Martinique and St. Vincent from Antigua by public subscription.	10

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Colony, &c.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
			1902.		
36	Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	(Rec. May 13) Telegram.	Gives particulars of the disaster at St. Vincent, which is found to be much worse than stated in previous reports: reports relief measures being taken.	10
37	Sir Edmund Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.	—	May 13	Transmits copy Note from the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, asking that the thanks of the French Government may be conveyed to the Administrator of Dominica for the assistance rendered by him.	11
38	Commander-in-Chief, North America and West Indies to Admiralty.	—	(Rec. May 14) Telegram.	Reports receipt of telegram from H.M.S. "Indefatigable," at St. Vincent, stating that the eruption is moderating and giving particulars of damage done.	11
39	To Acting-Governor Sir G. Melville.	Leeward Islands.	May 14 Telegram.	Approves St. Kitts-Nevis vote referred to in No. 35.	11
40	Foreign Office ...	—	May 14	Transmits copy of a note from the United States Ambassador conveying the sympathy of the President and people of the United States, with the inhabitants of St. Vincent, and enquires whether any special aid or service could be rendered by the United States Government.	12
40A	The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Choate (United States Ambassador).	—	May 14	States that the King requests that the President may be informed that he has been deeply touched by the message in No. 40: the enquiry as to aid has been communicated to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.	12
41	War Office ...	—	May 14	States that telegraphic instructions have been sent in the sense of No. 33.	13
42	To Governor Sir F. M. Hodgson.	Barbados	May 14 Telegram.	Directs him to offer medical assistance to St. Vincent.	13
43	To Governor Sir C. Bruce.	Mauritius	May 14 Telegram.	Expresses high appreciation at Nos. 21 and 28.	13
44	To Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	May 14 Telegram.	Conveys purport of No. 28 ...	13
45	To The Lord Mayor of London.	—	May 14	Transmits, with remarks, copy of No. 36, and requests that a fund may be opened for the relief of the sufferers.	13
46	The High Commissioner for Canada.	—	May 15	Repeats telegram from his Government stating that \$50,000 have been voted for relief in St. Vincent and Martinique and asking how St. Vincent can be best aided: requests information so that he may reply immediately.	14
47	Governor Sir A. Lawley.	Western Australia.	(Rec. May 15) Telegram.	Requests that the sympathy of the Governor and Ministers of Western Australia may be conveyed to the French President.	14
48	To Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	May 15 Telegram.	Notifies that a fund has been opened at the Mansion House for the relief of St. Vincent and suggests that an officer of high standing from another colony should assist in the organizing of relief.	15

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Colony, &c.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
			1902.		
49	To Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	May 15 Telegram.	Notifies that the Commanding Officers at Barbados and St. Lucia have been authorized to comply with any application for medical or other assistance, and that the United States Government offer assistance and enquire what form help should take.	15
50	Administrator Sweet Escott.	Seychelles.	(Rec. May 15) Telegram.	Conveys sympathy of people of Seychelles at loss of life and damage at St. Vincent and asks whether pecuniary assistance is required.	15
51	To Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	May 15 Telegram.	Enquires what stores are required for St. Vincent and whether they should be sent from England or America.	15
52	To Administrator Sweet Escott.	Seychelles.	May 15 Telegram.	Expresses appreciation at No. 50 : immediate assistance within means of Colony would be welcomed.	15
53	To Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	May 15 Telegram.	States that the Canadian Government have voted relief for sufferers and requests him to arrange with the Governor-General as to remitting the relief.	16
54	Governor Sir A. W. L. Hemming.	Jamaica	(Rec. May 15) Telegram.	Reports that the Legislative Council have voted £1,000 in aid of St. Vincent and Martinique.	16
55	To Foreign Office ...	—	May 15	Requests that the sincere thanks of His Majesty's Government may be conveyed to the President and people of the United States for their sympathy and offer of assistance, but states that, in view of the scanty information received it is difficult to say what form of assistance is most required and that the Governor of the Windward Islands is being asked what are the immediate needs.	16
56	To the High Commissioner for Canada.	—	May 15	Expresses grateful acknowledgments for offer of assistance : suggests it should be sent direct : gives purport of the instructions to the Governor of St. Vincent.	16
57	Administrator Sweet Escott.	Seychelles.	(Rec. May 16) Telegram.	States that Legislative Council approve of £200 being grant in aid of St. Vincent : further sum will be granted if Secretary of State approves.	17
58	Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	(Rec. May 16) Telegram.	States that the King's message of sympathy has deeply touched all classes.	17
59	Ditto ...	—	(Rec. May 16) Telegram.	Gives latest particulars of the disaster and of relief measures being taken.	17
60	To Governor Sir A. W. L. Hemming.	Jamaica	May 16 Telegram.	Approves vote reported in No. 54 ...	18
61	To Administrator Sweet Escott.	Seychelles.	May 16 Telegram.	Accepts the £200 referred to in No. 57, which will be sufficient.	18

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Colony, &c.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
			1902. —		
62	Foreign Office ...	—	May 16	Transmits copy despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, enclosing correspondence with the French Government respecting the offer of His Majesty's Government to send assistance to Martinique, which the French Government have gratefully accepted.	18
63	The Lord Mayor to the Crown Agents for the Colonies.	—	May 16	Encloses cheque for £10,000 for relief of sufferers at St. Vincent, as a first remittance from the Mansion House Relief Fund.	19
64	To Governor Sir F. M. Hodgson.	Barbados	May 16	Explains the sending of No. 42, and states that information has since been received that Major Will and five members of the Army Medical Service from Barbados are rendering assistance in St. Vincent.	19
65	To Royal Society ...	—	May 16	Promises every assistance possible short of a money grant to any expedition which may be despatched for the purpose of scientific observations.	20
66	Governor Sir F. M. Hodgson.	Barbados	(Rec. May 17) Telegram.	Reports departure of a detachment of Royal Army Medical Corps for St. Vincent on May 12; and that two civil medical officers will leave on May 17 in H.M.S. "Indefatigable," with large quantity of medical stores and general provisions.	20
67	Sir Edmund Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.	—	May 17 Telegram.	Conveys message of sympathy from the President of the French Republic at the St. Vincent disaster.	20
68	To Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	May 19	Conveys purport of Nos. 50 and 57, and states that the Crown Agents have been requested to remit the £200 to him.	21
69	The Federal Council of the Swiss Confederation to The Swiss Legation, London.	—	May 13 Telegram. (Rec. in Colonial Office May 20.)	Conveys expression of sympathy with His Majesty's Government in the St. Vincent disaster.	21
70	Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	May 17 (Rec. May 20) Telegram.	Reports steps he is taking for relief of distress. All immediate wants are now supplied, and re-settlement question is under his consideration: estimates £50,000 will support all sufferers for next six months, and provide for re-housing in new localities.	21
71	Governor Sir C. Bruce	Mauritius	(Rec. May 20) Telegram.	Reports that the Council of Government has voted Rs. 5,000 each for Martinique and St. Vincent, and that the municipality has voted Rs. 500 each.	21
72	The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir Edmund Monson.	—	May 20 Telegram.	Conveys thanks to the President of the French Republic for message of sympathy.	22

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Colony, &c.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
			1902. —		
73	To Governor Sir C. Bruce.	Mauritius	May 21 Telegram.	States in reply to No. 71 that the contributions reported are gratefully accepted.	22
74	Governor Sir A. W. L. Hemming.	Turks Islands.	(Rec. May 21) Telegram.	Reports that the Turks Islands Legislature have voted £100 in aid of the St. Vincent sufferers.	22
75	Ditto	Jamaica	(Rec. May 21) Telegram.	Proposes, with reference to No. 60, to allot £250 to Martinique and £750 to St. Vincent; offers to co-operate in any arrangement for receiving settlers and states that the United Fruit Company offer to provide accommodation and work for 300.	22
76	Foreign Office	—	May 22	States that copies of Nos. 20, 27 and 35 were duly forwarded to His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris for communication to the French Government, and transmits copy of a despatch from Sir E. Monson, conveying the thanks of the French Government for the sympathy shown.	22
77	Ditto	—	May 22	Transmits copy of a despatch from Sir E. Monson conveying the thanks of the French Government to the Governor of Mauritius for his expression of sympathy.	23
78	High Commissioner for Canada.	—	May 22	Repeats telegram from Minister of Trade and Commerce stating that Messrs. Pickford and Black offer to carry relief supplies from Halifax to St. Vincent free.	24
79	Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	May 9 (Rec. May 23.)	Confirms Nos. 1 to 4 and reports arrival at St. Lucia.	24
80	Ditto	—	May 9 (Rec. May 23.)	Transmits despatch from the Administrator of St. Vincent reporting the commencement of the eruption.	24
81	Ditto	—	May 9 (Rec. May 23.)	Forwards despatch from Administrator of St. Vincent reporting latest news and as to relief measures taken.	26
82	Administrator Cameron.	St. Vincent.	May 9 (Rec. May 23.)	Forwards copy of a despatch sent to the Governor of the Windward Islands, enclosing reports on the extent of the volcanic eruption and the relief measures which have been undertaken.	28
83	Dr. Morris (Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies).	—	May 10 (Rec. May 23.)	Sends press cuttings on the volcanic eruption in St. Vincent, and a report on the sample of volcanic dust collected in Barbados by Professor d'Albuquerque.	32
84	Royal Society	—	May 23	Gives the names of the members of the Commission to visit St. Vincent to enquire into the cause of the eruptions and asks for the collection of all available information.	33

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Colony, &c.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
			1902. —		
85	To Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	May 23	Transmits copy of No. 75, and states that Sir A. W. L. Hemming may be communicated with direct if necessary.	34
86	To Governor Sir A. W. L. Hemming.	Jamaica	May 23	States in reply to No. 75 that arrangements are being made for the payment of £250 to the French Government for relief in Martinique, and that the Governor of the Windward Islands is being asked to communicate direct on the subject of receiving settlers.	34
87	To Royal Society ...	—	May 24	Appreciates the action of the Royal Society ; states that the Governor has been instructed in the sense suggested in No. 84.	35
88	British Chamber of Commerce (Paris).	—	May 20 (Rec. May 27.)	Communicates copy of a resolution passed by the American Chamber of Commerce in Paris expressing sympathy with the inhabitants of St. Vincent.	35
89	Governor Sir D. Wilson.	British Honduras	May 23 (Rec. May 27.) Telegram.	Reports that the Legislative Council have voted 500 dollars for the relief of St. Vincent.	36
90	Foreign Office ...	—	May 27	Reports that a communication of condolence from the President of the Administrative Council of Biscaya on the disaster at St. Vincent has been received from the Secretary of the Spanish Embassy, and that he was requested to inform the President that His Majesty's Government returned sincere thanks for the message.	36
91	Ditto	—	May 27	Transmits copy of a despatch from Sir E. Monson, giving substance of the reply of the French Government to Nos. 26, 34, and 47, and requests that copies may be communicated to the Governors of Victoria, Western Australia, and the Bahamas.	36
92	To Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	May 27	Acknowledges receipt of despatches, and trusts that the ready response made to the Lord Mayor's appeal will enable the difficulties of the situation to be met ; notes that the staff on the spot is considered adequate for administration, without the services of an officer of high standing, as proposed.	37
93	Foreign Office ..	—	May 28	Transmits copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at the Hague, enclosing 1,000 florins from the Queen of the Netherlands for the relief of the inhabitants of St. Vincent.	38
94	Ditto	—	May 29	Transmits copy of a despatch from Sir F. Lascelles relative to a gift of £500 from the city of Berlin on behalf of the sufferers in St. Vincent.	39

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Colony, &c.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
			1902.		
95	To Governor Sir D. Wilson.	British Honduras	May 29	Conveys appreciation of the action of the Legislative Council in voting 500 dollars for the relief of the inhabitants of St. Vincent, and states that the Crown Agents have been instructed to remit the sum to St. Vincent, and to debit the amount to British Honduras.	39
96	Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	(Rec. May 29) Telegram.	Reports on state of affairs : it is believed the worst is over, but people are still nervous. Arrangements for comfort of injured, relief, and re-settlement are progressing satisfactorily.	40
97	Acting Governor Allardyce.	Fiji	(Rec. May 31) Telegram.	Reports desire of the Legislative Council to contribute £100 towards relief in St. Vincent, and requests that, if approved, instructions may be given to the Crown Agents for the Colonies.	40
98	Consul-General Sir P. Sanderson (New York) to the Marquess of Lansdowne.	—	May 16 (Rec. in Colonial Office June 2.)	Reports measures taken by the United States Government and people for the relief of the inhabitants of Martinique and St. Vincent.	40
99	Sir Edmund Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.	—	May 27 (Rec. in Colonial Office June 2.)	States that the French Government are greatly touched by the sentiments of humanity shown by the Council of Government of Mauritius and the Municipal Council of Port Louis, and desire to transmit an expression of their sincere gratitude to them.	41
100	Foreign Office ...	—	June 4	Transmits copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at the Hague forwarding 250 florins from the Queen Mother of the Netherlands, for the relief of the sufferers in the St. Vincent disaster.	41
101	To Acting-Governor Allardyce.	Fiji	June 4	Approves of the Legislative Council of Fiji voting £100 towards the relief of St. Vincent, and expresses satisfaction at the sympathy shown.	42
102	To Foreign Office	—	June 4	Acknowledges receipt of No. 94 and suggests that the thanks of His Majesty's Government should be conveyed to the Berlin City Authorities.	42
103	Governor Sir F. M. Hodgson.	Barbados	May 17 (Rec. June 5.)	Reports details of the Martinique disaster and transmits copies of documents and photographs.	43
104	Ditto ...	Barbados	May 17 (Rec. June 5.)	Reports on the outbreak of the Soufrière Volcano and states steps taken to provide relief for the sufferers.	52
105	Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	May 17 (Rec. June 5.)	Forwards copy of a despatch from the Administrator, Grenada, enclosing a Resolution of sympathy with the inhabitants of St. Vincent and Martinique passed by the Legislative Council on May 15, and recommends the appropriation, as reported, of £500 from Colonial funds for the relief of the sufferers.	55

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Colony, &c.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
			1902. —		
106	Governor Sir C. A. Moloney.	Trinidad	May 20 (Rec. June 5.)	Transmits copies of telegraphic messages; reports measures of relief adopted in connection with the disasters in Martinique and St. Vincent.	55
107	Ditto ...	Trinidad	May 21 (Rec. June 5.)	Transmits nominal roll of French refugees from Martinique, and states that they are at present dependent on charity; suggests that some portion of the sum subscribed for relief of sufferers by the disaster should be apportioned to them, and gives text of a resolution adopted at a public meeting on May 21 expressing sympathy with the people of St. Vincent and Martinique.	57
108	Governor Sir J. A. Swettenham.	British Guiana.	May 21 (Rec. June 5.)	Reports the vote of 10,000 dollars by the Combined Court for the relief of St. Vincent and Martinique, and encloses papers.	58
109	Administrator Bell.	Dominica	May 21 (Rec. June 5.)	Confirms No. 7 and states that the relief voted by the Government has been augmented by private donations.	60
110	Ditto ...	Dominica	May 21 (Rec. June 5.)	Reports that the Legislative Council has voted £50 for the relief of St. Vincent.	61
111	Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	May 22 (Rec. June 5.)	Forwards copy of a despatch from Administrator Hay covering a letter from the United States Consular Agent conveying an intimation from the United States Consul at Guadeloupe, who is now at Martinique, of his readiness to protect British interests and citizens, together with copy of the reply sent to the United States Consular Agent at St. Lucia.	61
112	Ditto ...	—	May 22 (Rec. June 5.)	Forwards copy of a despatch from Administrator Hay relative to the condition of certain refugees from Martinique, and recommends the suggestion that they should be relieved from the Mansion House Fund.	62
113	Ditto ...	—	May 23 (Rec. June 5.)	Reports on the loss of life and damage to property in St. Vincent, and transmits copy of a map showing the area devastated completely and return of acreage devastated and the amount of land tax thereon.	63
114	To the High Commissioner for Canada.	—	June 5	Reports receipt of a telegram from the Governor-General of Canada stating that 25,000 dollars have been placed to the credit of the Governor of the Windward Islands at the Colonial Bank; appreciates the generosity of the Dominion Government.	67

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Colony, &c.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
			1902. —		
115	Governor Sir D. Wilson.	British Honduras	May 22 (Rec. June 6.)	Transmits copy of a minute, referring to the St. Vincent disaster, placed before the Legislative Council, and reports that the sum of 500 dollars was voted towards the relief of the sufferers and that the District Boards have been invited to open subscription lists with the same object; suggests that a large number of emigrants of good character could be absorbed by the colony.	67
116	Foreign Office ...	—	June 9	Transmits copy of a despatch from Consul Churchward, Porto Rico, reporting measures of relief for St. Vincent and Martinique.	68
117	Admiralty ...	—	June 10	Transmits copy of a letter from the Officer Commanding H.M.S. "Indefatigable," containing a report on the recent volcanic eruptions in the West Indies.	69
118	To Governor Sir F. M. Hodgson.	Barbados	June 10	Acknowledges receipt of No. 103 and expresses gratification at the assistance Barbados has rendered. States that the actions of those who rendered assistance will be brought to the notice of the proper authorities.	71
119	To Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	June 10	Approves the votes submitted in No. 105. A copy of Mr. Drayton's despatch is being sent to the Marquess of Lansdowne for communication to the French Government.	72
120	To Administrator Bell.	Dominica	June 10	Approves of the vote of £50 for the relief of St. Vincent and expresses appreciation of the sympathy shown by Dominica.	72
121	To Governor Sir C. A. Moloney.	Trinidad	June 10	Acknowledges receipt of No. 106, and appreciates the generosity shown by the Government and people of Trinidad in providing for the wants of sufferers.	72
122	To Foreign Office ...	—	June 10	Transmits copy of No. 111 and suggests that the thanks of His Majesty's Government should be conveyed to the United States Government, and their Consul at Guadeloupe for the offer to protect British interests at Martinique.	73
123	To Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	June 11	Acknowledges receipt of No. 113 and agrees to the remission of land tax for one year on the estates enumerated in Mr. Cameron's minute.	73
124	Ditto ...	—	June 11	Authorizes, in reply to No. 112, application of the Mansion House Fund to the relief of such refugees from Martinique as are British subjects.	73
125	To Governor Sir F. M. Hodgson.	Barbados	June 11	Acknowledges receipt of No. 104 and expresses appreciation of the assistance which has been rendered by Barbados to St. Vincent.	74

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Colony, &c.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
			1902.		
126	Governor Sir A. W. L. Hemming.	Jamaica	May 27 (Rec. June 12.)	Transmits copy of a letter from the Superintendent of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company offering free carriage of stores and money to Martinique by the Royal Mail Steamer "Para," and states that an expression of appreciation of the offer has been conveyed to Captain Constantine.	74
127	Ditto ...	Jamaica	May 28 (Rec. June 12.)	Confirms No. 75 and suggests that the money voted by the Legislative Council should be applied to making preparations for the reception and settlement in Jamaica of persons from the afflicted districts of St. Vincent and transmits copy of a letter from Mr. Watson, Planting Attorney of the United Fruit Company in the Island, stating that the Company would at once find accommodation and work for two or three hundred labourers.	75
128	To War Office ...	—	June 13	Conveys thanks of the Secretary of State and the Governor of Barbados for the services rendered at the Martinique disaster by Colonel E. B. Booth, Lieutenant-Colonel E. A. Roche and Majors F. Will and G. Bent, who accompanied the relief expedition.	76
129	To Board of Trade	—	June 13	Calls the attention of the Board to the gallant conduct of Captain E. W. Freeman of the ss. "Roddam," in connection with the Martinique eruption, and asks if the Board can suggest any appropriate method of rewarding him.	76
130	To the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.	—	June 13	Conveys expression of appreciation of the action of Captain Owen in placing the Royal Mail Steamer "Solent" at the disposal of the Colonial Government.	76
131	To Foreign Office ...	—	June 16	Acknowledges receipt of No. 116; presumes that an expression of thanks will be conveyed to the United States Government for their assistance.	77
132	Governor Sir C. A. Moloney.	Trinidad	May 31 (Rec. June 18.)	Forwards copy of a letter addressed to the Governors of the Windward Islands and Martinique enclosing resolutions of condolence.	77
133	Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	June 3 (Rec. June 18.)	Reports the dispatch of the war ship "Dixie" by the Government of the United States of America with supplies and medical comforts for the relief of the sufferers in St. Vincent, and transmits copy of a letter of thanks to Captain Berry together with copy of his reply.	78
134	Governor Sir F. M. Hodgson.	Barbados	June 7 (Rec. June 18.)	Transmits report by Dr. Longfield Smith on a mineralogical examination of the volcanic dust which fell in Barbados.	79

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Colony, &c.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
			1902. —		
135	Board of Trade ...	—	June 18	States that the Board have decided to award Captain Freeman a Piece of Silver Plate in recognition of his gallantry.	81
136	To Governor Sir J. A. Swettenham.	British Guiana.	June 18	Approves of his action reported in No. 108.	81
137	To Governor Sir A. W. L. Hemming.	Jamaica	June 20	Informs him, with reference to No. 86, that His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris has received from M. Delcassé a request that the warmest thanks of the Government of the Republic, and of the sufferers themselves at Martinique, may be transmitted to the Legislative Council of Jamaica for their gift.	81
138	To Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	June 21	Transmits copy of No. 115 and requests views on the suggestion contained therein and in No. 85.	81
139	Ditto ...	—	June 24	Acknowledges receipt of No. 133 and expresses appreciation of the action of the United States Government in sending supplies and medical comforts to the sufferers at St. Vincent.	82
140	To Governor Sir F. M. Hodgson.	Barbados	July 2	Informs him that the Board of Trade have decided to award a piece of silver plate to Captain E. W. Freeman of the steamship "Roddam."	82
141	Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	June 14 (Rec. July 3.)	Requests that the appreciation of the people of St. Vincent may be conveyed to Seychelles, Mauritius, Port Louis, and Turks Islands for the donations granted and sympathy expressed.	82
142	Governor Sir C. A. Moloney.	Trinidad	June 17 (Rec. July 3.)	Forwards copies of reports and analyses of volcanic dust collected at sea off St. Vincent.	83
143	Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn.	—	June 17 (Rec. July 3.)	Compares the extent of the damage done by the present eruption with that caused by the eruption of 1812.	86
144	Ditto ...	—	June 18 (Rec. July 3.)	Reports preliminary arrangements made in connection with the Scientific Commission appointed by the Royal Society to investigate the recent volcanic eruption.	88

Map of St. Vincent showing area devastated by volcanic eruption ... to face p. 65

APPENDIX.

Report from Committee on Petition of Persons Interested in Estates in the Island of St. Vincent, with Correspondence, printed in May, 1813 ... 91

WEST INDIES.

CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO THE

VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS

IN

ST. VINCENT AND MARTINIQUE, IN MAY, 1902.

No. 1.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN (AT ST. VINCENT) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 2.15 p.m., May 7, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

(Delayed in transit.)

[*Answered by No. 5.*]

Slight earthquakes have been of frequent occurrence to the north of St. Vincent for the last week. To-day, at 3 p.m., it is reported that a dense cloud of steam arose from Soufrière.

No. 2.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN (AT ST. VINCENT) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 5.58 p.m., May 7, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

Referring to my telegram of yesterday,* confirm report of eruption Soufrière. Four outbursts since 3 p.m. yesterday; inhabitants much alarmed in the surrounding country are swarming into Chateaubelair; 300 fed last night. Disturbance not felt Kingstown.

No. 3.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN (AT ST. LUCIA) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 10.50 p.m., May 7, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

Arrived. Fear eruption Soufrière, St. Vincent, very serious from what I saw passing on passage to St. Lucia. Cables broken to Grenada and St. Vincent.

* No. 1.

No. 4.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN (AT ST. LUCIA) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 8 a.m., May 9, 1902.)

[Answered by No. 5.]

British steamer "Roddam" returned here, 17 crew dead; reports St. Pierre, Martinique completely destroyed. No news from St. Vincent; send assistance St. Lucia; inform French Government; cables still broken.

No. 5.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN (AT ST. LUCIA).

(Sent 4.45 p.m., May 9, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

Have received with regret your telegrams* as to eruption St. Vincent. Admiralty asked to send ship if possible and facilitate your movements. I shall be glad if you can return to St. Vincent as soon as possible and furnish me by earliest opportunity with full particulars. You are authorised to expend St. Vincent such sums as are absolutely necessary in case of immediate and urgent distress.

No. 6.

COLONIAL OFFICE to ADMIRALTY.

[See No. 12.]

SIR,

Downing Street, May 9, 1902.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the accompanying copies of telegrams* which have been received from the Governor of the Windward Islands reporting the occurrence of volcanic eruptions at St. Vincent and Martinique. The first two telegrams were sent from St. Vincent, and the last two from St. Lucia, the Governor having gone to that island on the 7th inst. Telegraphic communication as their lordships are, no doubt, aware is not interrupted with Jamaica and St. Lucia.

2. Mr. Chamberlain would be glad if their Lordships would give directions for one of His Majesty's Ships to proceed as soon as possible to St. Vincent, carrying if possible an extra supply of such provisions and stores as are thought likely to be of use, and if they would also take any steps which may be in their power to facilitate the movements of the Governor (who is being instructed to return to St. Vincent as soon as possible) and to restore regular communication between St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

3. It is also desirable that a visit should be paid as soon as possible to Dominica, to ascertain whether any serious eruption has taken place there, and to afford such relief as may be to hand if required. Mr. Chamberlain would further suggest that the Admiral on the station should be requested to do all in his power to render assistance at Martinique should the French authorities desire it, and should the necessities of the British Islands admit of his doing so.

I am, &c.,
C. P. LUCAS.

No. 7.

ADMINISTRATOR BELL (DOMINICA) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 9.10 p.m., May 9, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by No. 10.]

Terrible eruption Martinique volcano. Great distress. With approval of Executive Council sending immediately £100 value provisions. All safe here.

No. 8.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN (AT ST. LUCIA) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 7.50 a.m., May 10, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

Received news from St. Vincent this evening 30 deaths reported; information incomplete; eruption still proceeding. I am endeavouring to get back to St. Vincent.

No. 9.

GOVERNOR SIR F. M. HODGSON (BARBADOS) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 8 a.m., May 10, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by Nos. 11, 31 and 64.]

May 8. Soufrière, St. Vincent, erupted violently yesterday; loud reports resembling artillery fire heard Barbados 3 o'clock in the afternoon; at 5 o'clock in the afternoon darkness and thunder accompanied by steady downpour dust continued to night-time; Barbados covered inches thick this morning; have sent telegram to Governor-in-Chief, Windward Islands, offering every assistance.

No. 10.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to ADMINISTRATOR BELL (DOMINICA).

(Sent 12 (noon) May 10, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

Your telegram* received; vote approved. Telegraph any further information received.

No. 11.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR F. M. HODGSON (BARBADOS).

(Sent 12.15 p.m., May 10, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

Your telegram† received. Send any further particulars.

No. 12.

ADMIRALTY to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received May 10, 1902.)

(Extract.)

Admiralty, May 10, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, copy of a telegram, dated 9th instant, to the Commander-in-Chief on the North America and West Indies Station, together with his reply.

On receipt of your letter* a further telegram, copy of which is enclosed, was addressed to the Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure 1 in No. 12.

ADMIRALTY to COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, North America and West Indies.

TELEGRAM.

May 10, 1902. Serious volcanic disturbances occurring in St. Vincent, and Colonial Office asks that Governor of Windward Islands, now at St. Lucia, may be conveyed thence to St. Vincent in Man-of-War. What can you arrange? Ship selected should take extra stores and provisions, as great distress among inhabitants of area affected is anticipated. Cable between St. Lucia and St. Vincent broken.

Enclosure 2 in No. 12.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ON THE NORTH AMERICA AND WEST INDIES STATION to ADMIRALTY.

TELEGRAM.

Bermuda. May 9. "Indefatigable" has been ordered by telegraph to proceed to St. Lucia to convey Governor of Windwards to St. Vincent (and) render all possible assistance.

Enclosure 3 in No. 12.

ADMIRALTY to COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, North America and West Indies.

TELEGRAM.

May 10, 1902. With reference to your telegram, Colonial Office further asks that should necessities of British Islands admit, you will render such assistance at Martinique as may be possible if French Authorities desire it.

No. 13.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN (AT ST. LUCIA) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 4.42 p.m., May 10, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[See No. 18.]

Leaving at once St. Vincent; eruption continues. Break in cable continues. Again urge request for man-of-war.

No. 14.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN (AT ST. LUCIA) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 9 a.m., May 11, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

In continuation of my telegram of this morning,* my intention was to go over to St. Vincent in a small coasting steamer, but I was strongly advised not to attempt to, as it narrowly escaped being wrecked yesterday; weather looking very bad in that direction; island invisible; dense black fog of cinders and sand; very anxiously awaiting arrival of man-of-war, but I have received no information.

No. 15.

ADMINISTRATOR BELL (DOMINICA) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 9 a.m., May 11, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by No. 32.]

Saint Pierre, Martinique, completely destroyed by shower redhot scoriae; 40,000 persons reported perished; also nineteen ships, including American steamship "Roraima," and cableship "Grappler"; large area of island covered by ashes; acute distress; eruption still continues. All safe here.

No. 16.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, NORTH AMERICA AND WEST INDIES, to ADMIRALTY.

(Received at the Admiralty 8.30 p.m., May 10.)

(Received in Colonial Office 3.45 p.m., May 11, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

Bermuda, 10th May. Orders have now been given for His Majesty's Ship "Pallas" to proceed with supplies from Jamaica to St. Vincent, and directions have been given to the Senior Naval Officer at Barbados to communicate with the island of Martinique.

No. 17.

GOVERNOR SIR F. M. HODGSON (BARBADOS) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 7.15 p.m., May 11, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by Nos. 23, 31 and 64.]

In view of latest intelligence from Martinique Government Barbados sending immediately food supplies, also two medical officers with medical and surgical equipment. They are being taken by Royal Mail Steamer "Solent," kindly placed at disposal of Government of Barbados by superintendent. Colonial Secretary accompanies expedition in charge, but will return by Royal Mail Steamer 12th May, leaving medical officer and superintending clerk at Martinique, if necessary.

No. 18.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN (AT ST. LUCIA) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 9.23 p.m., May 11, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by Nos. 25 and 30.]

By latest reports Saint Vincent damage confined to the north of the Island. Deaths estimated at five hundred; I leave on "Indefatigable" this morning.

No. 19.

ADMINISTRATOR BELL (DOMINICA) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 2.20 a.m., May 12, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by Nos. 22 and 32.]

(Extract.)

Martinique catastrophe appears even more terrible than at first reported; refugees arriving this morning North end Island state new craters opening many directions; rivers overflowing banks; large areas North side Island submerged; other districts crowded survivors; almost total darkness continues; do not believe Guadeloupe can adequately relieve stupendous distress.

No. 20.

GOVERNOR THE EARL OF RANFURLY (NEW ZEALAND) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 7.25 a.m., May 12, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

Government of New Zealand express sympathy with French Government disaster Martinique.

[Colonial Office Note.—A copy of the above telegram was duly transmitted to the Foreign Office for communication to the French Government.]

No. 21.

GOVERNOR SIR C. BRUCE (MAURITIUS) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 3.24 p.m., May 12, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by No. 43.]

After the cyclone, 1892, Martinique sent Mauritius generous contribution in aid of sufferers. In view of recent appalling calamity, would you be good enough to convey to French Authorities an expression of sympathy on behalf of Mauritius, and my confident assurance that this Colony will not be less generous in contributing to the relief of the sufferers in Martinique.

[Colonial Office Note.—A copy of the above telegram was duly transmitted to the Foreign Office for communication to the French Government.]

No. 22.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to ADMINISTRATOR BELL (DOMINICA).

(Sent 3.40 p.m., May 12, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

In answer to your telegram,* Governor, Barbados, telegraph† supplies and medical assistance being sent from Barbados to Martinique.

No. 23.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR F. M. HODGSON (BARBADOS).

(Sent 3.40 p.m., May 12, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

In answer to your telegram of 10th May,† your action fully approved. Report further.

No. 24.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN.

(Sent 4.46 p.m., May 12, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by No. 58.]

I am commanded by His Majesty the King to express his deep regret at the calamity which has befallen the island of St. Vincent, and his sympathy with the sufferers and the bereaved in that Colony.

No. 25.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN.

(Sent 4.35 p.m., May 12, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

Your telegram of May 11.‡ Please express my sympathy with people of St. Vincent and deep regret at loss of life. Referring to my telegram of May 9.§ you may draw upon Crown Agents for £1,000 at once, and, if necessary, for more. Report carefully by telegraph and by mail after full consideration probable needs and expenditure. If amongst the killed or injured any prominent residents with relatives in this country telegraph names.

No. 26.

GOVERNOR SIR G. S. CLARKE (VICTORIA) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 11.5 a.m., May 13, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

If you please forward following message to President of Republic of France:—

Government and people of Victoria offer warm sympathy with French Government and people in their sorrow for the terrible loss of life in the Colony of Martinique.

[Colonial Office Note.—A copy of the above telegram was duly transmitted to the Foreign Office for communication to the French Government.]

No. 27.

ACTING-GOVERNOR SIR C. C. KNOLLYS (TRINIDAD) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 3.25 p.m., May 13, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

"Kennet," local steamer, started directly for Martinique, May 10th, conveying stores, medical comforts, two medical officers.

No. 28.

GOVERNOR SIR C. BRUCE (MAURITIUS) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 3.27 p.m., May 13, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by No. 43.]

Referring to my telegram of 12th May,* on receipt of further news to-day Council of Government desire to convey to St. Vincent expression of sympathy and promise of immediate grant in aid of victims of calamity.

No. 29.

GOVERNOR SIR F. M. HODGSON (BARBADOS) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 6.15 p.m., May 13, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by Nos. 42 and 64.]

Colonial Secretary and party just returned from Martinique report as follows:—

La Pelée began erupting 3rd May, became very active 6th May, and Governor next day proceeded to St. Pierre for purpose of re-assuring people, no danger being apprehended. About 7.30, 8th May, as far as can be ascertained, tremendous outbreak occurred, accompanied by sudden explosion of ignited matter, which might be compared with burning sealing wax; this matter in short time completely destroyed town, shipping, everything within an area of ten miles by six. Governor and wife perished, and no one within the area escaped. Façade town hall stands, and clock stopped at 7.50. Burnt corpses lie in every direction. Persons from northern side of island took refuge in Fort de France where relief arrangements are being organized.

French man-of-war "Suchet" engaged in carrying refugees and getting food supplies. Acting Governor Lhuerre and people very grateful for food supplies, which were urgently required; services of medical officers not required; there were not any wounded. In addition to persons named in my telegram of 10th May,† two Majors, Royal Army Medical Corps, and five men accompanied expedition.

It is estimated that 2,000,000 tons of dust in connection with St. Vincent eruption fell on Barbados.

No. 30.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN.

SIR,

Downing Street, May 13, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your several telegrams reporting the eruption of the Soufrière in St. Vincent.

2. You will have received His Majesty's gracious message of sympathy* with the suffering and loss which has been incurred, and though St. Vincent—it is hoped and believed—has escaped the terrible destruction of life and property which has befallen Martinique you may be well assured that the feeling of regret at this additional misfortune to a British Colony, which has already suffered so much, is deeply and widely felt.

3. At the time of writing, I have not received any particulars, as you have not been in a position to send them, but in my telegram of the 9th instant,† I authorized you to expend such sums as might be necessary to relieve immediate and urgent distress, and on the 12th instant I telegraphed to you‡ that you might draw upon the Crown Agents at once for £1,000, and for more if it should be necessary.

4. I shall await with anxiety the detailed reports which you will send in due course as to the nature and extent of the disaster, the steps to be taken, and the expenditure to be incurred, in order to give adequate relief.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 31.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR F. M. HODGSON (BARBADOS).

SIR,

Downing Street, May 13, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt on the 10th instant, of your telegram of the 8th inst.,§ relating to the volcanic eruption in St. Vincent. I have also received your telegram of the 11th inst.|| reporting that you had sent the Colonial Secretary and two medical officers to Martinique with supplies of food and medical equipment.

2. I fully approve of the prompt action which you have taken to relieve the distress caused by the terrible calamity which has befallen that island.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 32.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to ADMINISTRATOR BELL (DOMINICA).

SIR,

Downing Street, May 13, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your two telegrams¶ relating to the destruction of St. Pierre in Martinique by a volcanic eruption.

2. I have already telegraphed to you** my approval of your action in sending provisions to the value of £100 to that Island, and I have informed you†† that further supplies and medical assistance are being sent from Barbados.

3. I appreciate the readiness of Dominica to render all possible assistance to the inhabitants of Martinique in the terrible calamity which has befallen them, and I am assured that you will spare no effort in that direction.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 33.

COLONIAL OFFICE to WAR OFFICE.

[Answered by No. 41.]

SIR,

Downing Street, May 13, 1902.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to request you to bring to the notice of Mr. Secretary Brodrick that in the Island of Saint Vincent, in consequence of the disaster caused by the eruption of the Soufrière, there may probably be urgent and immediate need of medical aid, and of assistance in distributing relief, providing shelter, clearing communications in the devastated districts, &c.

2. Mr. Chamberlain has not yet received any details of what has occurred, but, in order to provide as far as possible for the needs which are likely to arise, he would

* No. 24.
‡ No. 17.

† No. 5.
¶ Nos. 15 and 19.

‡ No. 25.
** No. 10.

§ No. 9.
†† No. 22.

be glad if Mr. Secretary Brodrick could see his way to give telegraphic instructions to the Officers Commanding the Troops at Barbados and Saint Lucia to comply, so far as it may be in their power to do so, with any application for assistance which may be received from the Governor of the Windward Islands.

3. On learning that such instructions have been given, Mr. Chamberlain will so inform Sir R. Llewelyn by telegraph, and since the need, if it exists, will no doubt be felt most acutely at first, Mr. Chamberlain would request to be favoured with a reply to this letter at the earliest possible moment.

I am, &c.,
C. P. LUCAS.

No. 34.

GOVERNOR SIR G. T. CARTER (BAHAMAS) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN

(Received 9.0 p.m., May 13, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

Resolution passed by House of Assembly as follows:—With the wish that it may be forwarded to President of French Republic:—

Resolved: That this House has heard with deep dismay and regret of the terrible catastrophe that has befallen the island of Martinique and begs to tender to the French nation the expression of its profound sympathy in the dreadful disaster which has overwhelmed the people of that island.

[Colonial Office Note.—A copy of the above telegram was duly transmitted to the Foreign Office for communication to the French Government.]

No. 35.

ACTING GOVERNOR SIR G. MELVILLE (LEEWARD ISLANDS) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 10 p.m., May 13, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by No. 39.]

Following telegram received from Administrator, St. Kitts-Nevis:—

Telegram begins: Representative meeting members of Executive and Legislative Councils and leading men urge strongly authority for Government assistance to Martinique £100 foodstuffs. *Telegram ends.*

Have I authority to instruct Administrator take vote? Foodstuffs will be sent from here to Martinique and St. Vincent by public subscription.

No. 36.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN (AT ST. VINCENT) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 11.20 p.m., May 13, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by Nos. 48 and 51.]

Arrived yesterday, and found state of affairs much worse than given in reports forwarded by Administrator. Country on East Coast between Robin Rock and Georgetown apparently struck and devastated similarly to St. Pierre, and I fear that practically all living things within that radius have been killed, probably 1,600; exact number never will be known; managers and overseers of estates with their families and several better class people killed. One thousand bodies found and buried, 160 sent into hospital in Georgetown, probably 6 may recover; details too harrowing to describe. I have got the coasting steamer from St. Lucia running up and down Leeward Coast with water and provisions, 2,200 received relief. I have asked Governor, Trinidad, to lend me medical officer and ordered one from Grenada. "Indefatigable" remains. All neighbouring British Colonies giving assistance generously. The awful calamity is now realized, and every effort is being made to grapple with it. All

the best sugar estates in the Carib country are devastated and the cattle dead. Eruption continues, but it is apparently moderating. Anxiety still felt. All officers and residents co-operating with me, and ladies making articles of clothing.

No. 37.

SIR EDMUND MONSON to the MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE.

MY LORD,

Paris, May 13, 1902.

ON receipt of Your Lordship's telegram, I addressed an urgent note to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, communicating the message of the Administrator of Dominica* relative to the Martinique disaster.

I have now the honour to transmit copy of the reply which I have received from Monsieur Delcassé, asking that the thanks of the French Government may be conveyed to the Administrator of Dominica.

I have, &c.,

EDMUND MONSON.

The Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

Enclosure in No. 37.

MONSIEUR L'AMBASSADEUR,

Paris, le 12 Mai, 1902.

VOTRE Excellence a bien voulu me faire part de la généreuse initiative prise par l'Administrateur du Gouvernement de l'Île Dominique qui, avec l'approbation du Conseil Exécutif, a envoyé, en vue de remédier à la misère causée par la terrible catastrophe de la Martinique, des provisions de bouche à cette colonie française.

Le Gouvernement de la République a été vivement touché des sentiments de généreuse assistance qui ont inspiré ce haut fonctionnaire, et j'ai recours à l'obligeance accoutumée de Votre Excellence pour faire parvenir au Gouvernement Royal et à Monsieur l'Administrateur du Gouvernement de l'Île Dominique l'expression de notre sincère gratitude.

Agréez, &c.,

DELCASSÉ.

Son Excellence

Sir E. Monson,

&c., &c., &c.

No. 38.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, NORTH AMERICA AND WEST INDIES, BERMUDA, to ADMIRALTY.

(Received 7.58 p.m.)

TELEGRAM.

(Received in Colonial Office, May 14, 1902.)

Following telegram has been received from His Majesty's Ship "Indefatigable," St. Vincent:—

"Eruption apparently moderating.

Northern end of island devastated from Chateaubelair round to Georgetown.

Windward side of island worse. Mortality about 1,600. About 3,000 under relief. Can render necessary assistance here."

"Pallas" will go to Martinique from St. Vincent.

No. 39.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to ACTING GOVERNOR SIR G. MELVILLE (LEEWARD ISLANDS).

(Sent 1 p.m., May 14, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

In answer to your telegram of 13 May† vote St. Kitts-Nevis approved.

No. 40.

FOREIGN OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received May 15, 1902.)

[See No. 40A : Answered by No. 55.]

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, May 14, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, for the information of Mr. Secretary Chamberlain, the accompanying copy of a note from the United States Ambassador, stating that he is instructed to express to His Majesty's Government the sympathy of the President and the people of the United States in the affliction which has befallen the inhabitants of St. Vincent, and their desire to share in the work of aid and rescue.

With reference to the last part of Mr. Choate's note, I am to inquire whether Mr. Chamberlain can indicate any special aid or service which could be rendered by the United States Government.

* * * * *

Enclosure in No 40.

MY LORD,

American Embassy, London, May 13, 1902.

By a despatch received last evening from the Secretary of State, of which I had the honour to send you at once a copy informally, I was instructed to express to His Majesty's Government the sympathy of the President and the people of the United States in the affliction which has befallen the people of St. Vincent, and their desire to share in the work of aid and rescue.

My Government naturally deplores the appalling calamity which has fallen upon His Majesty's distant Colonists as sincerely as if it had happened to a portion of our own people, and has, I believe, already taken steps for their relief. If Your Lordship can indicate any aid or service which, by reason of our proximity to the scene of disaster, we may render, it will give me great pleasure immediately to communicate it to the President.

I have, &c.,

JOSEPH H. CHOATE.

The Most Honourable

The Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

No. 40A.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE to MR. CHOATE (UNITED STATES
AMBASSADOR).

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Foreign Office, May 14, 1902.

I HAVE laid before the King Your Excellency's note of the 13th instant,* conveying under instructions from your Government the sympathy of the President and people of the United States in the affliction which has befallen the people of St. Vincent, and their desire to share in the work of aid and rescue.

His Majesty has commanded me to inform you that he has been deeply touched by this message, and by the sympathy shown by the President and people of the United States, on the occasion of the great calamity which has overtaken one of the British Colonies.

I would ask Your Excellency to be good enough to convey to the President His Majesty's message, together with the heartfelt thanks of His Majesty's Government, and the assurance that the feelings to which Your Excellency has given expression will be most highly appreciated in this country, and by the community which has suffered so much.

I have communicated to the Secretary of State for the Colonies the enquiry contained in Your Excellency's note, and have requested him to indicate any aid or service which would be acceptable to the distressed Colony.

* Enclosure in No. 40.

On the receipt of Mr. Chamberlain's reply I shall have the honour to address a further communication to Your Excellency.

I have, &c.,
LANSDOWNE.

His Excellency
The Honourable
Joseph H. Choate,
&c., &c., &c.

No. 41.

WAR OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received May 15, 1902.)

SIR,

War Office, London, S.W., May 14, 1902.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant,* relative to the disaster caused by the eruption of the Soufrière in the Island of St. Vincent, and I am to acquaint you, for the information of Mr. Chamberlain, that, as desired, telegraphic instructions have been sent to-day to the General Officer Commanding, Barbados, and to the Officer Commanding the Troops, St. Lucia, asking them to comply, so far as it may be in their power to do so, with any application for assistance which may be received from the Governor of the Windward Islands.

I am, &c.,
G. FLEETWOOD WILSON.

No. 42.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR F. M. HODGSON (BARBADOS).

(Sent 1 p.m., May 14, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by No. 66.]

Your telegram† received May 13. Offer medical assistance. Governor, Saint Vincent.

No. 43.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR C. BRUCE (MAURITIUS).

(Sent 1.18 p.m., May 14, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

Your telegrams of 12th and 13th May‡ highly appreciated.

No. 44.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN (ST. VINCENT).

(Sent 4.15 p.m., May 14, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

Council of Government, Mauritius, desire to convey to St. Vincent expression of sympathy and promise of immediate grant in aid of victims of calamity.

No. 45.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON.

[See No. 63.]

MY LORD MAYOR,

Downing Street, May 14, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to enclose a copy of a telegram§ which has been received from the Governor of the Windward Islands, reporting the terrible loss of life and suffering caused by the eruption of the Soufrière in the Island of St. Vincent.

* No. 33.

† No. 29.

‡ Nos. 21 and 28.

§ No. 36.

2. I had not felt justified in appealing to your lordship for aid on behalf of the island until the Governor had verified on the spot the nature and extent of the injury and the loss, but his telegram and others confirm, I deeply regret to say, the worst anticipations which had been formed, and I can no longer refrain from asking that a fund may be opened at the Mansion House for the relief of the numerous sufferers by this melancholy disaster.

3. It will be within your lordship's recollection that St. Vincent was laid waste by a hurricane in September, 1898,* and that your predecessor in that year used the powerful influence of the Mansion House on behalf of this island and of Barbados. There is no part of His Majesty's dominions—I may say with confidence—which deserves so truly as St. Vincent the practical sympathy of the people of this country. In normal times it has been among the most depressed island in the sorely tried group of West Indian Colonies, and in addition it has now within the space of four years been visited by two calamities, which it would be difficult, probably impossible, to parallel in the history of a British Colony.

4. I am well aware how many calls there have been of late on the generosity of this country, but I should be wanting in my duty as Secretary of State for the Colonies if I did not venture to impress upon your lordship and through you on the public at large my sense of the urgency of the present case.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 46.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received May 15, 1902.)

[*Answered by No. 56.*]

SIR,

17, Victoria Street, London, S.W., May 15, 1902.

I BEG to quote, for the information of the Secretary of State, the following telegram, received this morning from the Minister of Finance of Canada:—

“Government of Canada have taken an appropriation of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for relief of sufferers by the volcanic disasters in the West Indies. We are applying twenty-five thousand dollars to Martinique through the French Government, and are desirous of applying so much of the balance as may be needed to relief funds for St. Vincent or any other case. Can you advise us as to the needs of St. Vincent and the best manner of sending such sum as we may decide upon for aid to that island? Perhaps aid could be given through the Colonial Bank.”

I shall be obliged if you can enable me, in the course of the day, to send a telegram giving the information that is asked for in the concluding part of the message.

I am, &c.,

STRATHCONA.

No. 47.

GOVERNOR SIR A. LAWLEY (WESTERN AUSTRALIA) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 9.30 a.m., May 15, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

Desire you to acquaint President of Republic, France, Governor of Western Australia, and Ministers, desire to express sincere sympathy calamitous result eruption, Martinique.

[Colonial Office Note.—A copy of the above telegram was duly transmitted to the Foreign Office for communication to the French Government.]

* See C. 9205, March, 1899, and C. 9550 October, 1899.

No. 48.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN (ST. VINCENT).

(Sent 12.45 p.m., May 15, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[See No. 70.]

Your telegram* received 13th May with deep regret.

Mansion House fund opened; remittances will be made through Colonial Bank. You may rely that requisite funds will be forthcoming, but would suggest that relief should be carefully organised with a view to avoiding waste of money, and taking steps likely to be of permanent benefit. Consider whether officer of high standing from another Colony would be of use for this purpose; if so would suggest that you apply direct to Governor, Trinidad.

No. 49.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN (ST. VINCENT).

(Sent 12.50 p.m., May 15, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by No. 70.]

Commanding Officers, Barbados, Saint Lucia, authorised by Secretary of State for War to endeavour to comply with any application for medical or any other assistance.

United States Government offer assistance, and ask what is the best form, considering proximity of United States of America.

Telegraph reply.

No. 50.

ADMINISTRATOR SWEET ESCOTT (SEYCHELLES) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 2.45 p.m., May 15, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by No. 52.]

People of Seychelles Islands send deepest sympathy at loss of life and destruction of estates at St. Vincent. Do you require pecuniary assistance?

No. 51.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN (ST. VINCENT).

(Sent 2.50 p.m., May 15, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by No. 70.]

With reference to my telegram of to-day† telegraph what stores required, and whether they should be sent from this country or from America.

No. 52.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to ADMINISTRATOR SWEET ESCOTT (SEYCHELLES).

(Sent 6.10 p.m., May 15, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[See No. 57.]

Your telegram of 15th May‡ highly appreciated: immediate assistance within means of Colony would be welcomed.

No. 53.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN (ST. VINCENT).

(Sent 7.50 p.m., May 15, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

Canadian Government have voted relief sufferers St. Vincent. Telegraph Governor-General whether it should be sent in money or in kind; if in kind, what supplies required, and if money, how it should be remitted.

No. 54.

GOVERNOR SIR A. W. L. HEMMING (JAMAICA) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 7.55 p.m., May 15, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by No. 60.]

Legislative Council voted £1,000 yesterday to be placed at my disposal for relief sufferers Saint Vincent and Martinique. Despatch follows by mail.

No. 55.

COLONIAL OFFICE to FOREIGN OFFICE.

SIR,

Downing Street, May 15, 1902.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of the Foreign Office letter of the 14th instant,* forwarding a copy of a note from the United States Ambassador, in which he expresses to His Majesty's Government the sympathy of the President and the people of the United States in the disaster which has befallen the inhabitants of St. Vincent, and their desire to share in the work of aid and rescue; enquiring further whether there is any special aid or service which the United States can render, by reason of their proximity to the scene of the disaster.

2. I am to request that you will move the Marquess of Lansdowne to convey to the United States Ambassador an expression of the sincere thanks of His Majesty's Government for the sympathy of the President and people of the United States, and for their offer of active assistance made in such cordial and friendly terms.

3. At the moment of writing, the information received is so scanty that it is difficult for Mr. Chamberlain to state what form of assistance is most required; but he is communicating the substance of Mr. Choate's letter to the Governor of the Windward Islands by telegraph, and is requesting him to state what are the most immediate needs. On the receipt of a reply he hopes to be in a position to take advantage of this generous offer.

4. In the meantime the Governor of the Windward Islands at St. Vincent will gladly receive and distribute any gifts sent to his care.

I am, &c.,

C. P. LUCAS.

No. 56.

COLONIAL OFFICE to THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA.

MY LORD,

Downing Street, May 15, 1902.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of to-day's date,† enclosing a telegram from the Minister of Finance of Canada relating to the vote taken by the Canadian Government in aid of the distress caused by the volcanic eruption in the West Indies.

* No. 40.

† No. 46.

2. I am to express Mr. Chamberlain's grateful acknowledgments for the prompt and generous assistance which is being given by the Dominion Government to the British Island of St. Vincent, and to add that he bears in mind that similar liberal help came from Canada to the same island at the time of the hurricane of 1898.

3. The needs of St. Vincent are, Mr. Chamberlain fears, very urgent and very great, and should the Dominion Government see fit to apply \$25,000 in aid of those needs, he is assured that the sum would in every sense be well applied.

4. The money contributed by Canada in 1898 to Barbados and St. Vincent would seem to have been remitted direct to those islands, and Mr. Chamberlain would suggest that such assistance as may now be given should also be sent direct.

5. But he is not clear whether the aid should preferably be given in money or in supplies, and he is therefore sending a telegram to the Governor at St. Vincent, asking him to communicate direct with the Governor-General as to the form in which relief should be sent.

6. In the event of a money remittance being asked for, it would no doubt be made through the Colonial Bank.

I am, &c.,
C. P. LUCAS.

No. 57.

ADMINISTRATOR SWEET ESCOTT (SEYCHELLES) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 7.50 a.m., May 16, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by No. 61.]

Legislative Council approve of £200 being grant-in-aid, St. Vincent. Please instruct Crown Agents for Colonies; further sum will be granted if you approve.

No. 58.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN (AT ST. VINCENT) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 7.55 a.m., May 16, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

The gracious message* from His Majesty the King has been communicated to the people of St. Vincent by me, and to the sufferers in hospital. All classes deeply touched by kind sympathy of His Majesty the King.

No. 59.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN (AT ST. VINCENT) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 10.25 a.m., May 16, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

In continuation of my telegram of 12th May, and in answer to your telegram of 12th May† received this morning, no prominent residents or officials injured. Alexander Fraser, his wife, and nephew, Wellington Fraser, all three killed instantaneously at Orange Hill Estate; please inform his sister, Joanna Fraser. Total number of bodies now found and buried, 1,300; in hospital to-day, 130. Major Will and five men, Army Medical Service arrived from Barbados, and are assisting. All immediate wants now supplied by generous aid from neighbouring Colonies. Losses of animals, horses, mules, donkeys, cattle, at least 2,000. Nine of the best sugar estates damaged seriously; one, Wallibu, completely buried, ground covered with ashes, and all vegetation destroyed; will probably revive after rain, but fear owners

* No. 24.

† Nos. 36 and 25.

will not re-erect buildings and restock with cattle or continue cultivation for some time to come; future outlook, therefore, very serious. 3,000 on relief list to-day at approximate cost of £50 per diem, and must remain for some time to come; other location for some under consideration, when houses will have to be provided. Eruption seems decreasing, but lava is flowing, and all danger is not yet over.

No. 60.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR A. W. L. HEMMING (JAMAICA).

(Sent 12.10 p.m., May 16, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by No. 75.]

In answer to your telegram of 15th May,* vote approved.

No. 61.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to ADMINISTRATOR SWEET ESCOTT (SEYCHELLES).

(Sent 3.20 p.m., May 16, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

£200 gratefully accepted, and will be sufficient.

No. 62.

FOREIGN OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received May 17, 1902.)

SIR,

Foreign Office, May 16, 1902.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the accompanying copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador in Paris, inclosing a copy of the note which His Excellency addressed to the French Government, conveying the offer of His Majesty's Government to send assistance to Martinique, together with a copy of their reply.

I am, &c.,

T. H. SANDERSON.

Enclosure in No. 62.

MY LORD,

Paris, May 13, 1902.

As the President held a Cabinet Council at the Elysée this morning, I lost no time in asking Monsieur Delcassé, in a letter of which copy is enclosed, to communicate to Monsieur Loubet and to the members of the Government the offer of His Majesty's Government to send from neighbouring British possessions to the sufferers from the catastrophe at Martinique such aid as is at hand, especially medical officers, provisions, and medical comforts.

I enclose a copy of the answer of Monsieur Delcassé, accepting with gratitude the offer of provisions and medical comforts, and stating that the President and the Government are deeply touched by this new mark of sympathy.

I have, &c.,

EDMUND MONSON.

The Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

MON CHER MINISTRE,

Paris, le 13 Mai, 1902.

JE viens de recevoir la dépêche suivante de Lord Lansdowne:—

“Le Gouvernement du Roi désire vivement envoyer des secours aux survivants de la catastrophe de la Martinique par tous les moyens que le Gouvernement de la République jugera les plus aptes.

“Si nous pouvons venir en aide en envoyant des médecins et chirurgiens et des dons de provisions et médicaments, qui se trouvent en dépôt dans nos Colonies avoisinantes, nous sommes de même d’agir de suite.

“Mais nous hésitons à donner des ordres sans être assurés d’avance que notre co-opération sera agréable au Gouvernement de la République.

“Veuillez communiquer ce qui précède au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.”

Je vous prie donc, mon cher Ministre, de soumettre cette dépêche à Monsieur le Président de la République ainsi qu’à vos collègues, et de me faire savoir leur décision aussitôt qu’il vous sera possible.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

EDMUND MONSON.

Son Excellence

Monsieur Delcassé,

&c., &c., &c.

MON CHER AMBASSADEUR,

Paris, le 13 Mai, 1902.

JE viens de donner connaissance au Président de la République et au Conseil des Ministres de la lettre par laquelle vous voulez bien me communiquer le télégramme du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères du Roi.

Vivement touchés de cette nouvelle marque de sympathie, le Président et le Gouvernement acceptent avec une sincère gratitude l’offre d’envoi rapide à la Martinique des provisions et médicaments en dépôt dans les Colonies Anglaises voisines.

Je vous prie, mon cher Ambassadeur, de vouloir bien transmettre au Gouvernement du Roi nos remerciements cordiaux et d’agréer vous même l’expression de mes sentiments tout dévoués.

DELCASSÉ.

Son Excellence

Sir E. Monson.

No. 63.

THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON to THE CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

The Disaster in St. Vincent—Mansion House Relief Fund.

GENTLEMEN,

The Mansion House, E.C., May 16, 1902.

I BEG to send you herein a cheque for £10,000, being a first remittance from this fund for the relief of the sufferers by the calamity at St. Vincent, and shall be glad if you will cable it out to the island without delay. I feel greatly gratified that by the liberality of His Majesty and the benevolent public I am able to place so large a sum at your disposition within 24 hours of the starting of the fund.

I am, &c.,

JOSEPH C. DIMSDALE,

Lord Mayor.

No. 64.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR F. M. HODGSON (BARBADOS).

SIR,

Downing Street, May 16, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your several telegrams* relating to the volcanic eruptions in St. Vincent and Martinique.

2. I have already informed you in my telegram of the 12th inst.,† and in my despatch of the 13th inst.,‡ the prompt measures which you took to relieve the distress occasioned in Martinique have my full approval.

3. In a telegram which I received from you on the 14th inst.,* you stated that the services of medical officers were not required in Martinique, and as the news which I had received from St. Vincent indicated that their help would be valuable in that island, I telegraphed† to you on that day to offer medical assistance to the Governor of the Windward Islands.

4. I have since learned from him that Major Will and five members of the Royal Army Medical Service from Barbados are rendering assistance in that island.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 65.

COLONIAL OFFICE to ROYAL SOCIETY.

[Answered by No. 84.]

SIR,

Downing Street, May 16, 1902.

It has been brought to Mr. Chamberlain's notice that scientific observers might with great advantage be sent out to the West Indies to study the scenes of the recent eruptions, and also to visit adjoining islands—such as Dominica, where there are evidences of volcanic actions.

2. Mr. Chamberlain cannot hold out the hope of any special government grant for this purpose.

3. But otherwise than by a money grant he will be glad to give every support to an expedition, should it be sent, to commend it to the Governors of the Colonies concerned, and to ensure that all possible facilities are given for observation and research.

4. I am accordingly to ask whether the Royal Society are prepared to take the matter in hand, and, if an expedition is sent, to be informed in due course of the arrangements which may be made.

I am, &c.,

C. P. LUCAS.

No. 66.

GOVERNOR SIR F. M. HODGSON (BARBADOS) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 7.57 p.m., May 17, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

Referring to your telegram of 14th May,† one officer, six non-commissioned officers and men, Army Medical Service, field medical and surgical equipment left Barbados for St. Vincent 12th May; two civil medical officers leaving this evening in His Majesty's Ship "Indefatigable," with large quantity of medical stores and general provisions.

No. 67.

SIR EDMUND MONSON to THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE.

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by No. 72.]

May 17. The President of the Republic having received at Rea the news of the extent and continuance of the disaster at St. Vincent, has instructed the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to request me to communicate to the King and to His Majesty's Government the assurance of his deep sorrow and most sincere sympathy..

No. 68.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN.

SIR,

Downing Street, May 19, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have received from the Administrator of the Seychelles Islands a telegram* expressing the deep sympathy of the people of that Colony with the people of St. Vincent on the loss of life and destruction of estates caused by the recent volcanic eruption.

2. He has also informed me† that the Legislative Council of Seychelles has approved of a grant of £200 towards the relief of the sufferers, and I have requested the Crown Agents to arrange for that amount to be remitted to you, and have intimated to the Administrator my grateful acceptance of it on behalf of the Colony of St. Vincent.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 69.

LE CONSEIL FEDERAL DE LA CONFEDERATION SUISSE, A BERNE, à LA LEGATION DE SUISSE, A LONDRES.

(Received in Colonial Office, May 20, 1902.)

TELEGRAMME.

Berne, 13 Mai, 1902, 6.15 p.m. D'après journaux à St. Vincent aussi des centaines de personnes auraient succombé. Veuillez présenter au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi nos condoléances les plus vives pour ce terrible désastre.

Au nom du Conseil fédéral suisse,

Le Vice-Président,

DEUCHER.

No. 70.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN (AT ST. VINCENT) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 8.5 a.m., May 20, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

17th May; three messages‡ received: all immediate wants are now supplied; have ordered timber for houses through His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington and Governor-General of Canada, which will (cost) £5,000; please instruct those officers to co-operate and arrange for payment. Question of resettlement of the people is under my consideration; one new township has been settled up to the present time. Engaged in completing arrangements for relief of wounded and other sufferers. In my estimation £50,000 will enable us to support all sufferers for six months and rehouse in new localities. Sufferings of wounded from burns very terrible. Sixty deaths in hospital. Thanks for offer of assistance. Hope we can now manage locally to satisfactorily make arrangements for all the additional work.

No. 71.

GOVERNOR SIR C. BRUCE (MAURITIUS) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 3.44 p.m., May 20, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by No. 73.]

Referring to previous telegrams Council of Government has to-day voted Rs. 5,000 for Martinique, and Rs. 5,000 for St. Vincent. Municipality has voted Rs. 500 Mart-

* No. 50.

† No. 57.

‡ Nos. 49, 51, and 53.

inique, Rs. 500 St. Vincent. Request Crown Agents be instructed pay amount to proper authorities.

No. 72.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE to SIR EDMUND MONSON.

(Dated May 20, 1902. Despatched 7.30 p.m.)

TELEGRAM.

Your telegram.* Pray ask Minister for Foreign Affairs to convey to President our sincere thanks for his kind message, which we greatly appreciate.

No. 73.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR C. BRUCE (MAURITIUS).

(Sent 5.40 p.m., May 21, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

Your telegram of 20 May,† contributions gratefully accepted.

No. 74.

GOVERNOR SIR A. W. L. HEMMING (TURKS ISLANDS) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 7.55 p.m., May 21, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

Legislative Board, Turks Islands, voted with my approval £100 as a contribution to St. Vincent. Please inform Governor, Windward Islands.

No. 75.

GOVERNOR SIR A. W. L. HEMMING (JAMAICA) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 7.55 p.m., May 21, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No. 86.*]

Referring to your telegram of 16 May,‡ propose to allot £250 Martinique. If you approve please inform French Government, and request Crown Agents to supply. Will hold £750 for St. Vincent. If this Government could assist by receiving settlers, should be glad to co-operate in any arrangement desired. United Fruit Company offer to provide accommodation and work for 200 or 300.

Despatch|| follows by mail.

No. 76.

FOREIGN OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received May 23, 1902.)

SIR,

Foreign Office, May 22, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inform you that copies of the telegrams§ from the Governors of Barbados and New Zealand and the Administrators

* No. 67.

† No. 71.

‡ No. 60.

§ Nos. 20, 27, 29 and 35.

| No. 127.

of Dominica and Trinidad, relative to the disaster at Martinique, were duly forwarded to His Majesty's Ambassador in Paris for communication to the French Government.

I am to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of a despatch from His Excellency, conveying the thanks of the French Government to all these gentlemen for the sympathy shown by them on the occasion of the disaster.

I am, &c.,

T. H. SANDERSON.

Enclosure in No. 76.

Sir E. MONSON to the MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE.

MY LORD,

Paris, May 17, 1902.

I COMMUNICATED to the French Government the messages from the Governors of Barbados and New Zealand, and from the Administrators of Dominica and Trinidad, and the telegram from the Commander-in-Chief, copies of which were enclosed in Your Lordship's despatch of the 14th instant.

I have the honour to state that I am in receipt of a note from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, asking that the heartfelt thanks of the French Government may be conveyed to all these gentlemen for the sympathy shown by them on the occasion of the disaster that has befallen the Colony of Martinique.

I am, &c.,

EDMUND MONSON.

The Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

No. 77.

FOREIGN OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received May 23, 1902.)

SIR,

Foreign Office, May 22, 1902.

A COPY of the telegram* from the Governor of Mauritius relative to the Martinique disaster, which was enclosed in your letter of the 13th instant,† was forwarded to His Majesty's Ambassador in Paris for communication to the French Government.

I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of a despatch from His Excellency, stating that the French Government have asked that an expression of their profound gratitude may be conveyed to Governor Sir Charles Bruce.

I am, &c.,

T. H. SANDERSON.

Enclosure in No. 77.

Sir E. MONSON to the MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE.

MY LORD,

Paris, May 18, 1902.

I COMMUNICATED to the French Government the message from the Government of Mauritius, a copy of which was enclosed in Your Lordship's despatch of the 13th instant, relative to the Martinique disaster.

I have the honour to report that I am in receipt of a note from Monsieur Delcassé, asking that the warm thanks of his Government and an expression of their profound gratitude may be conveyed to Sir Charles Bruce.

I have, &c.,

EDMUND MONSON.

The Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

No. 78.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received May 23, 1902.)

SIR,

17, Victoria Street, London, S.W., May 22, 1902.

I BEG to quote, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the following cablegram which has reached me from the Minister of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa:—

“Messrs. Pickford and Black offer carry free from Halifax reasonable quantity supplies for relief sufferers St. Vincent. Please inform Colonial Office.”

I am, &c.,

STRATHCONA.

No. 79.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN (AT ST. LUCIA) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received May 23, 1902.)

[Answered by No. 92.]

SIR,

St. Lucia, May 9, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to attach copies of four telegrams* which I have sent to you relative to the eruption of the Volcano—dormant for 90 years—at the northern end of St. Vincent.

2. I left there for St. Lucia as previously arranged at 10 a.m., on Wednesday, the 7th instant, and as I passed up the coast I realized for the first time that the disturbance was very serious. I arrived here at 3.30 p.m., and found that, about half an hour before, the cables had broken, and I was cut off from St. Vincent and Grenada.

3. I gave instructions to the Administrator before I left St. Vincent that if I was cut off he was to telegraph at once to Trinidad for H.M.S. “Indefatigable,” which I knew was there, to come for me here, and take me back to St. Vincent.

4. Yesterday, as I could get no news, I sent off the small coasting steamer “Wear” to St. Vincent for information, and gave instructions for her to be back at 2 p.m., in time for the English Mail.

5. She had not arrived up to time, so I regret that I cannot give you any further information by this Mail.

I have, &c.,

R. B. LLEWELYN,

Governor.

No. 80.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN (AT ST. LUCIA) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received May 23, 1902.)

[Answered by No. 92.]

St. Lucia, May 9, 1902.

Forwarded. No time for comment.

R. B. LLEWELYN.

Enclosure in No. 80.

SIR,

Government House, St. Vincent, 10 p.m., May 7, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that after Your Excellency's departure for St. Lucia shortly before 10 o'clock this morning, until 1 p.m. I continued to receive reports by

telephone from the Chief of Police at Chateaubelair, and the Magistrate at Georgetown as to the conditions prevailing in those towns.

2. The Chateaubelair reports were to the effect that it was evident that the eruption was increasing in force and extent, and that a continuous stream of people were coming into the town from the villages and hamlets in the immediate vicinity of the mountain.

3. At Georgetown nothing unusual appeared to be taking place till shortly before 1 o'clock, when it was reported that small pebbles and ashes had begun to fall, and that persons from Tourama and Lot 14 had begun to come in.

4. Shortly after 10 a.m., in view of the reports from Chateaubelair I ordered a Police Patrol to be started from Georgetown to Owia to warn the people to be on the look out for danger.

5. I also arranged for the purchase and despatch to Chateaubelair by the mail boat of a small quantity of provisions to the value of \$50, to meet the probable immediate need there.

6. Distinct thunder increasing in volume began to be heard here about 12.30 p.m., and a little before 2 o'clock vast spiral clouds of thick grayish white smoke in fleecy rolls gradually darkening, began to rise high in the heavens, the ascent of which was visible from the streets of Kingstown over the tops of the adjacent hills. These were streaked every now and again with intensely vivid pencil flashes of lightning, and lightning was playing fiercely in the clouds around Kingstown.

7. At this time communication by telephone was impossible, owing to the action of the fluid on the lines, and it was not till about 5.30 o'clock that I again got into touch with Chateaubelair while with Georgetown there has been no further connection up to the present, the line being evidently damaged.

8. The previously intermittent thunderings merged shortly before 2 o'clock into a heavy continuous roar, as of a vast distant furnace, and the pall of smoke spread itself ever more widely over the heavens.

9. At 2.40 scoriæ, approximately of the size of pence and half-pence began to fall thickly in Kingstown accompanied by a steady rain of volcanic dust, which last has continued to the present time, though much lighter now than at first.

The sulphurous odour of this dust is very strong.

10. By 4 o'clock the sky was completely blotted out by a murky pall of yellow vapour the conditions approximating to those attending the less noxious variety of yellow London fog.

11. Some half-hour earlier I drafted a telegram to Your Excellency, reporting what was taking place, but on proceeding to the Cable Office to despatch it, was informed by the Clerk-in-Charge that communication with St. Lucia was interrupted.

12. Acting on Your Excellency's verbal instructions given to me at the moment of your departure, I at once, having ascertained through the Cable Office that H.M.S. "Indefatigable" was at Trinidad, despatched the following telegram:—

"Telegraphic communication interrupted with St. Lucia. Governor-in-Chief of the Windward Islands went St. Lucia this morning. Instructed me in the event of telegraphic communication interrupted request you to proceed St. Lucia at once. Call here en route convey latest news."

13. I succeeded in getting a momentary telephonic communication with Chateaubelair at 5.30, and learnt from Corporal of Police Ballantyne, who was still at the Station that the Chief of Police and Medical Officer with the greater part of the Chateaubelair inhabitants had quitted the town at the time when the eruption was at its fiercest, and stones, &c., falling heavily.

14. I subsequently got into communication with Chateaubelair again, and am told that a large number of the people up to as far as Troumaca have quitted or gone south towards Coull's Hill and Barrouallie.

15. Being unable to get communication with Georgetown, I despatched Corporal of Police Politte on horseback at 5.30 to proceed there with utmost despatch, collecting information en route, and to return at once with the Magistrate's report of what has taken place there. He will, I hope, be here by daylight to-morrow morning.

16. The Reverend Mr. Huckerby telephoned to me at 6.30 from Barrouallie, to the effect that some 500 people were there, for whom accommodation for the night had been found in the large School-house, and the old Mission dwelling. The food sent down, intended for Chateaubelair, had not reached further than Barrouallie, and under his supervision with assistance from the Police and School-master a small distribution was being made.

17. Several boats, with gentlemen from Kingstown, who started at mid-day for Chateaubelair to witness the sight of the eruption returned late in the afternoon, having been unable to get further than Cumberland, where, from their description, a dense bank of black cloud over the sea was encountered, by which they were turned back. Scoriæ, &c., also rained heavily on them.

18. I gather that the town of Chateaubelair is uninjured, but that Wallibou (Robertson's) and Richmond (Porter's) Estates have suffered severe damage. A good many people from the last report seem to be still at Chateaubelair.

19. The whole island is, of course, covered with a thin layer of the volcanic dust already referred to. I have heard up to the present of no loss of life, and trust that none such has occurred.

20. I received just as the Telegraph Office was closing the following telegram from Governor Moloney, Trinidad:—

"Heartfelt sympathy. Anxious to know particulars.—MOLONEY."
to which I sent the following reply:—

"Grateful thanks sympathy. Fierce eruption. Island covered ashes.
Extent damage yet unknown."

21. At the time of closing this report (midnight) thunderous sounds and rumblings are still clearly to be heard from the direction of the Souffriere.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD J. CAMERON,
Administrator.

No. 81.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN (AT ST. LUCIA) TO MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received May 23, 1902.)

[Answered by No. 92.]

St. Lucia, May 9, 1902.

Forwarded,

R. B. LLEWELYN.

Enclosure in No. 81.

SIR, Government House, St. Vincent, 9.30 a.m., May 8, 1902.

IN continuation of my report of last night,* I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that this morning, having ascertained that His Majesty's Ship "Indefatigable" was still at Trinidad, and having received no reply to my telegram of yesterday, I despatched to the Governor of Trinidad the following message:—

"Can you let me know whether "Indefatigable" is coming here to go on to St. Lucia, in accordance with request made by me yesterday under instruction of Governor-in-Chief of the Windward Islands, if telegraphic communication interrupted?"

2. The Chief of Police, Medical Officer, Dr. Hughes, and the Leeward Warden and Revenue Officer, who spent last night at the Honourable D. A. MacDonald's house at Wallilabo, returned to Chateaubelair, to which place, as also to Barrouallie, I have sent some further food supplies.

3. It has also been necessary to send some water to Chateaubelair, where the ordinary source of supply is choked with dust.

4. I consulted the Chairman of the Kingstown Board yesterday evening with a view to economizing the water in the town reservoirs, and this is being done.

5. At 8.15 Corporal Politte returned from Georgetown and brought a short report from the Magistrate, copy of which I herewith enclose. It would not appear from the information given by the Corporal in his personal report to me that there has been any serious damage done in the town of Georgetown itself, or that any loss of life occurred there.

6. The Corporal on his way out in the darkness last night met some 300 people sheltering at Colonarie Police Station, and many people under the Byera tunnel and other points affording facilities for shelter.

7. The telephone linesmen proceeded out early this morning to inspect and repair the Georgetown line, but communication has not yet been restored.

8. At the present, in Kingstown, the position is one of some discomfort, a strong breeze having sprung up, which is blowing the powdery volcanic dust into every nook and crevice, and the air is white with it.

9. News has just reached me by telephone from a constable who has just 3.15 p.m. returned from Georgetown to Mesopotamia, of many deaths in the Carib country as far as Sandy Bay, among them the managers and overseers at Tourama and Orange Hill, and their families, the cause being said to be lightning.

Copy of Police report, received at 4.5 is enclosed.

I shall doubtless receive a full report from the Magistrate shortly.

10. A considerable number of people from Frasers, and some from Chateaubelair are now in town, and arrangements are being made for the housing and feeding of such as are actually houseless and friendless in the Commissariat building at New Edinboro'.

11. At 12.30 I received from Governor Moloney the following reply to my telegram referred to in paragraph 1:—

“ ‘Indefatigable’ stationed at Trinidad under orders from His Majesty’s Government. Have suggested Drayton send local coasting steamer St. Lucia, pass through St. Vincent as desired. Hope no loss of life nor property.”

12. The following messages also passed a little later between Administrator Drayton, Grenada, and myself:—

From Drayton,

“Would Taw be useful to you or can I give assistance in any other way?”

To Drayton,

“Thanks, I think not. Steamer this evening Barbados to St. Lucia conveys telegram Governor-in-Chief of the Windward Islands. Thirty deaths Windward so far as is known at present. Extent damage property not yet known. Immediate assistance from without not necessary.”

13. At 3 o’clock I despatched to Your Excellency the following message, to be conveyed by steamer from Barbados to St. Lucia, due to leave Barbados, as I learnt from the cable office, at or about 4 o’clock:—

“Steady increase in eruption yesterday. At its height between two and three, dense smoke ascending, visible Kingstown. Pebbles, dust, fell thick here. Officers, people, forced wait Chateaubelair returned this morning. Wallibou, Richmond, destroyed. No telegraphic communication with Georgetown. News brought by messenger this morning says property town little damaged, but black darkness yesterday and heavy stoning. Much alarm. Thirty deaths as far as is known at present. Rabacca Works damaged; some houses burnt. No news from higher up as yet. Food distribution going on. Just heard bad reports Carib country. Many deaths.”

14. By telephone from Chateaubelair from the Chief of Police, at 4.30, I learn that the destruction of Wallibou and Richmond Estates is complete, but so far no authenticated instance of loss of life on the Leeward Coast has come to light.

15. I am now leaving office to see what is being done towards housing the people at New Edinboro', and what further may be needed.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD J. CAMERON,
Administrator.

His Excellency

Sir R. B. Llewelyn, K.C.M.G.,

&c., &c., &c.,

St. Lucia.

POLICE MAGISTRATE, 2nd District, to ADMINISTRATOR.

His Honour

THE ADMINISTRATOR,

ABOUT half an hour after I spoke with you by telephone there were several outbursts of flames of fire from the top of the mountain, followed by stones the size of a man's fist, and larger, showering down in large quantities.

At 2.30 p.m. the whole country was in entire darkness, fire all the time being emitted from the mountain top; the darkness never cleared up, and there was no telling whether it was night or day except by reference to the clock. The scene was more than I can express, and the terrified condition of the people can better be imagined than described—the whole place is covered with lava and sand 12 to 14 inches in depth.

Over 300 people are in Georgetown at the school house, and other places, and you may be assured that I shall be up and doing all I can to relieve them.

Several houses in the vicinities of Dicksons, Rabacca and Byera are destroyed, and several deaths have taken place; at present I have heard of about 30.

The arrowroot works at Rabacca partly destroyed and the Bay Store completely destroyed. It is quite impossible for me at this time (2.15 a.m., of 8th May) to give anything like a full account of damage done, not being in a position to do so, but I shall, as soon as I am able to ascertain, write you fully.

H. B. I.

May 8, 1902.

P.S.—I shall be glad to have whatever food supplies Your Honour can send me.

H. B. I.

Sergeant-Major BEALE to ADMINISTRATOR.

Police Headquarters, May 8, 1902.

His Honour

THE ADMINISTRATOR,

I FORWARD the following report received from Mesopotamia 3.45 p.m.

Corporal Soso reports that Police Constable Liverpool returned from Georgetown and reported that Mr. Sayers and family, of Tourama, Mr. and Mrs. Fraser, of Orange Hill, Mr. Grant, the Overseer of Orange Hill, Nathaniel and Shebbee Monroe, two females named Connell, of Overland, burned to death by lightning.

Estate Lot 14 demolished; all stock dead.

Victor Sutherland, of Georgetown, who was riding from Overland this morning fell off his horse at Orange Hill and was picked up dead.

Beyond Overland no information.

Yours, &c.,

D. R. BEALE,

Sergeant-Major.

No. 82.

ADMINISTRATOR CAMERON (ST. VINCENT) to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received May 23, 1902.)

[Answered by No. 92.]

SIR,

St. Vincent, May 9, 1902.

1. I FORWARDED, this morning, to His Excellency the Governor at St. Lucia, by special steamer sent here by him for the purpose, two despatches* reporting the results, so far as known to that time, of the terrible eruption of the Soufrière Mountain here, and the consequent action being taken.

2. Sir Robert Llewelyn will doubtless transmit these despatches or communicate their purport to the Secretary of State by the mail steamer due to leave St. Lucia this evening.

* Enclosures in Nos. 80 and 81.

3. I have, however, during the course of the day, received further reports from the affected districts, representing more fully the magnitude of the disaster and the sad loss of life by which it has been attended, and as the Secretary of State will doubtless desire to have the fullest particulars as early as practicable, I now send, for his information, copy of the further despatch, with enclosures, which I am to-night addressing to the Governor, by the mail steamer now in port.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD J. CAMERON,
Administrator.

Enclosure in No. 82.

SIR,

Government House, St. Vincent, 6 p.m., May 9, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatches* forwarded to you this morning by the S.S. "Wear," to St. Lucia, I have now the honour to forward a later report from the Magistrate at Georgetown, which shows that the number of deaths in the Carib country is unfortunately very large.

2. I have sent out there Dr. Durrant and the European nurse and a dispenser to assist the District Medical Officer, with such supply of lint and wool, &c., as could be quickly obtained.

3. I have also, during the day, sent out extra constables, in accordance with the Magistrate's request, and some disinfectant, with such supply of food as transport could be obtained for.

4. Telephonic communication with Georgetown has been restored, and I learn from the Magistrate that he is experiencing much trouble in regard to getting the people there to work to bury the dead. At Tourama the bodies are still untouched.

5. At Barrouallie there are some 600 to 800 refugees, and I have ordered the Leeward Warden up from Chateaubelair to Barrouallie to supervise the relief and weed out those to whom assistance ought not to be given, and have sent Mr. Otway, the Audit Clerk, to assist him.

6. A copy of a report of his proceedings from the night of the 6th up to this morning from the Chief of Police is forwarded for Your Excellency's information.

7. I fear it is inevitable that the Government will have to undertake the feeding and housing of a considerable number of people for some little time.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD J. CAMERON,
Administrator.

His Excellency

Sir R. B. Llewelyn, K.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.,
St. Lucia.

(A.)

POLICE MAGISTRATE, 2nd District, and WINDWARD WARDEN to ADMINISTRATOR.

Georgetown, 8.45 a.m., May 9, 1902.

His Honour

THE ADMINISTRATOR,

IN continuation of my Minute of yesterday's date, I now beg to report as follows:—

That in the town of Georgetown cemetery 82 were interred yesterday; men and carts were employed, and despatched last evening and this morning for the purpose of burying all dead bodies found on the following estates in the cemeteries attached thereto, viz., Overland, Tourama, Orange Hill, Waterloo, Rabacca, and Lot 14.

Many of the bodies interred yesterday have been carted in from Waterloo, Orange Hill, Rabacca, and Mount Bentinck estates; many of these were found dead on the roadside.

The information we have received from all parts of the district would lead us to believe that the number of deaths is considerably over 200, including 30 from the Fancy.

Relative to live stocks on estates, &c., men have been despatched last evening and this morning for the purpose of burying them.

The Georgetown Hospital is full with injured people, and two other places have been obtained for the purpose of locating the injured that are constantly coming into Georgetown.

No food stuffs can be obtained in Georgetown; not a vestige of green herbage to be seen from Byera upwards.

It is the greatest difficulty to employ men or carts—food-stuffs are urgently required—we are doing the best we can to cope with the situation, but regret to say that those persons who can be useful to us, with the exception of one or two, are panic stricken, and trying to get away from the district; the surrounding scene is most appalling, and there is every indication of matters growing worse.

Dr. Austin was at Georgetown yesterday, and rendered some assistance, but the services of a second medical man are absolutely necessary. Should Your Honour be able to send about three or four good and respectable police constables to assist in the out-work in the district, we should be extremely obliged. Telephonic communication, which has been cut off, we beg that Your Honour will take steps to have at once restored.

Disturbance has again taken place at the Soufrière Mountain, this morning, showers of large gravel, stones and ashes were falling for over an hour, and the whole country was enveloped in dark clouds with severe thunder and lightning; it is now clearing up a little, but there is no security or safety to be relied on.

A number of houses at Overland and other places have been completely destroyed; large numbers of people are constantly flocking into Georgetown. The estates buildings at Tourama, Orange Hill, Lot 14, and Rabacca are considerably injured—Orange Hill and Lot 14 practically destroyed.

A supply of carbolic disinfectant is most urgently needed, and we beg that Your Honour would be good enough to have it despatched as soon as possible.

H. B. I.
G. D.

(B.)

CHIEF OF POLICE to COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Honourable COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Chateaubelair, May 8, 1902.

At 8 p.m. on the 6th instant, I left Kingstown in company with Dr. Hughes, who had been directed by you to accompany me, and arrived in Chateaubelair at midnight.

As we came near to the wharf, the top of the Soufrière burst into flame, the fire travelling in a descending circular track round the mountain; this was followed by a very loud report, as if of explosion, which gradually died away in a decreasing rumble.

The top of the mountain emitted a dense volume of very heavy smoke.

I visited the Government Barracks on the hill above the Police Station, where between 180 to 200 people had taken refuge.

Between 2.30 and 5 a.m. similar explosions occurred, but without fire being seen.

A little after 8 a.m. I visited Rose Bank, where I found at least 150 refugees from Morne Ronde.

The sloop "Triumph," arrived in port about this time.

About 10.15 a.m. a huge body of smoke rose from the crater, and continued in ever-increasing size and density, gradually enveloping the top part of the mountain.

The clouds of smoke then appeared down every ravine on the part of the mountain visible from the wharf, and from its appearance I was of opinion that this was the burning lava pouring down and meeting damp green herbage, causing the emission of the steamy smoke.

About 1 p.m. the activity at the crater appeared to be at its height; enormous volumes of smoke and a little flame belched forth. The smoke gradually enveloped the whole mountain, and stretched far out to sea, gradually travelling over Chateaubelair.

People began to leave by way of the Chateaubelair Hill, and stones began to fall all over the town.

About this time Mr. McDonald passed across the bay in his boat, going from Richmond Vale in the direction of Barrouallie.

Every minute the aspect grew more serious, and stones of the size of two or three inches square fell very thickly.

I then advised the people crowding the streets to leave the town, and although the police could have left in their boats, I considered it to be the better course to go by road, after the people, and encourage them over the hill out of the dangerous zone.

Between five and six hundred of them moved out and dispersed themselves along the different bridle tracks leading in the Barrouallie district. I reached Wallilabo in a thoroughly tired condition about half past 6 p.m.

About 7 a.m. this morning, having directed the mail boat, with supplies, which was unable to pass Barrouallie last night, to call in for me at Wallilabo beach, and, in company with Dr. Hughes, Mr. McDonald and Mr. Gentle, I reached Chateaubelair at about 8.30.

The Soufrière was entirely invisible, being enveloped in a dark, heavy cloud of smoke and dust, which stretched far out to sea.

The harbour and the adjoining bay were practically filled with floating house wreckage and huge logs, rendering the approach to the wharf difficult and dangerous. I had the supplies moved up to the Police Station.

Between 9 and 10 a.m. the smoke and dust became thicker, and enveloped the whole surrounding district, and it became so dark that it was difficult to recognise each other across the room.

As this darkness was dispelled a very heavy fall of fine slate-coloured dust and sand came down, and as it cleared huge columns of dense, heavy smoke were seen rising from the crater.

The air had a most sulphurous smell, and at intervals of about half an hour there were deep, heavy rumbles, accompanied by lightning and thunder. The heat was intense.

I experienced several severe shocks from the telephone wire while speaking, and at different times I had to prevent the use of the telephone altogether on account of the danger.

About 1 p.m. the air began to clear, with a slight shower of rain, and, at the present moment (about 2.15) the sky has a dull, heavy, dust-charged appearance, columns of smoke continuing to rise from the crater.

About 500 people have received rations of fish and crackers.

There have been a few reports of people getting cut in their heads from the falling stones.

I received a blow from a fairly big stone about four miles from here, while at Wallilabo I found that stones had been falling about an inch square in size.

The whole country is covered with grey dust, and to a depth of between four and five inches in Chateaubelair.

It has been reported that Richmond Estate has been entirely demolished and that the Overseer's house had taken fire, but I have been unable to verify this.

I have sent the boat round three times, but they have been unable to face the dense quantities of sand and sulphurous smoke.

At the present moment the boat is out making another attempt to go round, and in any event, I intend going to view the place myself to-morrow.

I think there is every reason to believe that Richmond Estate has suffered very heavily indeed.

A woman has just reported that her husband, one Anthony Charles, is missing—she last saw him catching fish in the Wallibou River, and he declined to come on with the others. Of course there is a great possibility that he has gone down the coast in one of the many canoes that passed along.

4 p.m. At last the boat was able to get within view of Wallibou, and Police Constable No. 40, Abrahams, whom I specially selected as he belongs to that district, reports that the Wallibou house is totally destroyed, and where the works and village were, is nothing but steam. No animals were to be seen anywhere around Wallibou. The river is reported to be simply a mass of steaming lava. There is no foreshore, and what is evidently lava now comes forward as a huge bluff bank in the sea.

At Richmond the manager's house is totally destroyed, and the village is covered over with ashes still smoking. The works are destroyed. A number of dead goats and pigs were seen lying on the beach and in the water.

This report of the policeman is corroborated by Mr. Matthis, a German chemist,

who has been some time in the district, and who got a view of the place the same time as the policeman.

4.15 p.m. The loud peals, some evidently thunder, and others the groaning of the Soufrière, are again becoming more frequent, and the thick mist more dense.

5 p.m. A great deal of thunder and lightning. Heavy black clouds descending from the mountain and seawards.

6 p.m. Rain falling heavily, all view to seaward and up the coast obscured by heavy, smoky, thundery-looking clouds.

6.15 p.m. "Loanda," with water, &c., from Kingstown, arrived.

7 p.m. Thunder and lightning continues, and showers of rain at intervals.

During night flashes continuously.

9th. 4 a.m. A very loud report, as if of explosion immediately under the station as it were. No flash previously for some time, but a very near flash after followed *at once* by thunder. Several flashes in the immediate neighbourhood continued at short intervals, and then rain again fell heavily.

6 a.m. Lightning continuing near at hand and suspended use of telephone.

W. JAMESON CALDER,
Captain,
Chief of Police.

No. 83.

DR. MORRIS (COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE WEST INDIES) to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received May 23, 1902.)

Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies,
Barbados, May 10, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, herewith, an extract from the "Agricultural News," and from local newspapers* respecting the fall of volcanic ash that occurred in this island between 4 p.m., on the 7th until 5 a.m., on the morning of the 8th instant.

2. There is little doubt that, as in 1812, this ash was brought by an upper current of wind from the Soufrière at St. Vincent in active eruption ninety (90) miles to the west of Barbados.

3. I forward also in a separate package a small quantity of the ash collected on a sheet as it fell, and preserved without any admixture with local substances.

4. It will be observed that it is estimated that the total weight of ash that fell in this island was at the rate of 17.6 tons per acre. A preliminary chemical analysis has been made by Professor d'Albuquerque. A copy is enclosed.

5. Although it does not appear that the ash contains direct fertilizing properties, Professor d'Albuquerque is of opinion that it may tend to improve the texture of the soil. In any case it is not likely to prove injurious to crops in this island.

6. I may add that with the view of obtaining the fullest information respecting the mineralogical and chemical properties of the ash, samples are being communicated by this mail to Professor Judd, C.B., F.R.S., of the Royal College of Science, South Kensington, and to the Secretary of the Geological Society of London.

I have, &c.,
D. MORRIS,
Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies.

Enclosure 1 in No. 83.

"AGRICULTURAL NEWS," Saturday, May 10, 1902.

VOLCANIC ASH IN BARBADOS.

A description of the volcanic eruptions at Martinique and St. Vincent has already been given in the newspapers. It may be worthy of note that the volcanic ash that fell at Barbados from 5 p.m. on

* Extract from "Agricultural News" and the "Agricultural Reporter" only printed.

the 7th to 4.30 a.m. on the 8th varied from three-eighths to half-an-inch in depth. It covered houses, trees, and all vegetation with a grey mantle of impalpable powder and gave the landscape a singular appearance. By actual measurement it has been ascertained that the weight of ash was at the rate of 17.58 tons per acre, or 11,251 tons per square mile. Taking the area of Barbados as 166 square miles it is probable that nearly two million tons of ash were deposited over this island alone. An immense quantity must have, also, fallen into the sea. The composition of the ash has not yet been ascertained. It is probable, as in the case of the "May dust" of 1812, that it contains silica, alumina, oxide of iron and oxide of manganese with some trace of sulphur. It should be regarded in its ultimate results, at east, as beneficial to the soil.

Enclosure 2 in No. 83.

"THE AGRICULTURAL REPORTER," Saturday, May 10th, 1902.

ANALYSIS OF MAY DUST.

(To the Editor of the Reporter.)

SIR,

A preliminary chemical and mineralogical examination of a sample (collected at "Wilkey") of the volcanic dust that fell during the night of the 7th instant has been made at this laboratory and shows that, while dust like this sample, when mixed with our heavy clay lands may tend to improve the texture of the surface layers, it has no fertilizing value. It is probable, but not certain, that the dust wherever collected in this island has much the same composition and value: but further samples will be examined in order to test this point.

The following are some of the details of the examination of this sample:—

The dust as measured at "Wilkey" fell to an approximate depth of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, and it is estimated that in the neighbourhood of Bridgetown the fall amounted to nearly 20 tons per acre.

The particles for the most part vary in diameter between 0.35 and 0.15 millimetres and do not exceed 0.5 millimetre.

Dissolved by boiling hydrochloric acid in 1 hour:—

Phosphoric acid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	a trace
Potash	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.07 per cent.

Dissolved by water:—

Calcium Sulphate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	trace
------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

Present:—

Sulphide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	a trace
Ferrous and Ferric iron	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	(as silicates?)

Dr. Longfield Smith as a result of a preliminary mineralogical examination reports—

"I find this dust to consist of volcanic minerals and volcanic glass, the minerals predominating.

"These minerals consist chiefly of silicates of iron and magnesia. There is also a considerable proportion of quartz and some potash felspar. I have compared this volcanic dust with a sample of that which fell in this island in May 1812. The two samples differ greatly when observed under the microscope. The dust which fell in 1812 is much finer and contains very few mineral crystals, it being chiefly composed of fragments of dark brown volcanic glass."

I am, &c.,

J. P. D'ALBUQUERQUE,

Island Professor of Chemistry and Agricultural Science.

Government Laboratory,
Barbados, 9 May, 1902.

No. 84.

ROYAL SOCIETY to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received May 23, 1902.)

[Answered by No. 87.]

SIR,

The Royal Society, Burlington House, W., May 23, 1902.

ADVERTING to your letter of the 16th instant,* on the subject of the Scientific Commission which is to be despatched by the Royal Society to the West Indies to study the

* No. 65.

scenes of the recent volcanic eruptions, I am directed to inform you that, as at present contemplated, the Commission will consist of Dr. Tempest Anderson, and of Dr. J. S. Flett, a Government Geologist, whose services have been placed at the disposal of the Royal Society by the Board of Education, and will sail from England on the 28th instant. In the meantime it is considered very desirable that steps be taken as early as possible to obtain trustworthy evidence regarding the actual occurrences at St. Vincent during the recent volcanic activity. The evidence should consist of attested statements, as far as possible, by educated and reliable observers, and a careful distinction should be made between observed facts and hearsay reports or conjectures. This might be more profitably undertaken by some one acquainted with the Island and its inhabitants, acting under instructions from the local authorities, than by the visiting geologists, whose time will be required for field work. It would also be advisable to have samples collected of any waters which have been polluted or in any way changed in composition by the eruptions. Before the geologists reach the island, the waters may have returned to their normal condition. The samples should be in glass bottles, which should have been washed in the water they are to contain, and should be properly stoppered or corked, and efficiently sealed. At least half a gallon, and preferably one gallon, of each sample will be needed.

From the considerations above mentioned it will be seen that it is important that these enquiries should be set on foot as soon as possible, and I am to ask if His Majesty's Secretary of State will be so good as to communicate with the authorities in St. Vincent if possible by telegraph, with a view to the collection of the desired evidence being begun as early as possible.

A small Committee of the Royal Society has been appointed to direct the investigations, and after this Committee has met, a further communication will be made with regard to such other assistance as it may be necessary to ask the Colonial Office to procure for the Commission. The Lords of the Admiralty have been asked to render any assistance in their power to the Commission in the matter of transport.

I am, &c.,
M. FOSTER,
per R. W. F. H.,
Secretary, Royal Society.

No. 85.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN.

SIR,

Downing Street, May 23, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, for your consideration, the accompanying copy of a telegram,* which I have received from the Governor of Jamaica, in which he states that he is holding, on behalf of St. Vincent, the sum of £750, which the Legislative Council has voted for the relief of the sufferers in St. Vincent; and that he would be glad to co-operate in any arrangement for receiving settlers from St. Vincent, and that the United Fruit Company offer to provide accommodation and work for two or three hundred such settlers.

2. I have not yet received the despatch which Sir Augustus Hemming promises, but you are at liberty, if you see fit, to communicate with him direct on the subject.

I have, &c.,
J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 86.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR A. W. L. HEMMING (JAMAICA).

SIR,

Downing Street, May 23, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 21st instant,* stating that you propose to allot to Martinique £250 out of the £1,000

voted by the Legislative Council for the relief of the sufferers from the recent volcanic eruptions in that island and in St. Vincent. I am making arrangements accordingly for the payment of this sum to the French Government.

2. You also state that you would be glad to co-operate in any arrangement for receiving in Jamaica settlers from St. Vincent, and that the United Fruit Company offer to provide accommodation and work for two or three hundred.

3. I am communicating a copy of your telegram to the Governor of the Windward Islands, and I am informing him that he is at liberty, if he sees fit, to communicate with you direct upon the subject.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 87.

COLONIAL OFFICE to ROYAL SOCIETY.

SIR,

Downing Street, May 24, 1902.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd inst.,* on the subject of the Scientific Commission which is to be despatched to the West Indies by the Royal Society to study the scenes of the recent volcanic eruptions.

Mr. Chamberlain has learned the Society's intention to send this Commission with much interest and pleasure, and he is requesting the Governor to make the preliminary investigations desired in a telegram† of which a copy is enclosed for your information.

24th May,
1902.

I am, &c.,

C. P. LUCAS.

No. 88.

THE BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (PARIS) to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received May 27, 1902.)

SIR,

British Chamber of Commerce, Paris, May 20, 1902.

At a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Chamber of Commerce in Paris, held under date of May 14th, a resolution expressing the sympathy of that body with the inhabitants of St. Vincent who have suffered so severely by the recent disaster in the West Indies, was adopted unanimously, and I beg to communicate a copy of same to you herewith.

I am, &c.,

W. C. ROBERTSON,

President.

The Right Honourable

Joseph Chamberlain, M.P.,

Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

Enclosure in No. 88.

American Chamber of Commerce, 3, Rue Scribe, Paris.

Whereas the Islands of the West Indies have been visited by a fearful calamity, owing to the recent volcanic eruptions, bringing death to thousands of people, and casting a gloom over the whole civilized world; and

Whereas it is learned that the Island of St. Vincent has not been spared, and has suffered severely from this appalling disaster;

Resolved, that the American Chamber of Commerce of Paris proffers its most sincere and heartfelt sympathy to the sorely stricken island in this hard trial which

* No. 84.

† Not printed.

Providence has laid upon its inhabitants, and expresses the hope and belief that Anglo-Saxon manhood will assert itself in this hour of adversity, and will triumph over the disaster which has befallen a flourishing Colony of the British Empire;

Resolved further, that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the British Chamber of Commerce of Paris.

FRANCIS KIMBEL,
President.

(Seal.)
W. S. DALLIBA,
Honorary Secretary.
Paris, May 14, 1902.

No. 89.

GOVERNOR SIR D. WILSON (BRITISH HONDURAS) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 5.21 p.m., May 27, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by No. 95.]

May 23. \$500 voted by Legislative Council for relief St. Vincent. Request Crown Agents be instructed to arrange accordingly.

No. 90.

FOREIGN OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received May 28, 1902.)

SIR,

Foreign Office, May 27, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that the Secretary of the Spanish Embassy called at this office on the 23rd instant, to communicate a telegram of condolence from the President of the Administrative Council of Biscaya on the calamity which has befallen the Island of St. Vincent.

He was requested to inform the President, in reply, that His Majesty's Government returned their sincere thanks for the friendly and sympathetic message.

I am, &c.,
F. H. VILLIERS.

No. 91.

FOREIGN OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received May 28, 1902.)

SIR,

Foreign Office, May 27, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that copies of the telegrams* enclosed in your letters of the 14th and 15th instant,† relative to the disaster in the Island of Martinique were forwarded to His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris for communication to the French Government.

I am to transmit a copy of a despatch from His Excellency, giving the substance of the reply which he has received from the French Government, and I am to request

* Nos. 26, 34 and 47.

† Not printed.

that copies of the despatch may be communicated to the Governors of Victoria, West Australia, and the Bahamas.

I am, &c.,

F. H. VILLIERS.

Enclosure in No. 91.

Sir E. MONSON to the MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE.

MY LORD,

Paris, May 22, 1902.

I COMMUNICATED to the French Government the telegrams from the Governors of Victoria, West Australia, and the Bahamas, copies of which were enclosed in Your Lordship's despatch of the 16th instant, relative to the disaster in the Island of Martinique.

I have the honour to state that I am in receipt of a despatch from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating that the French Government were much touched by these expressions of sympathy, and asking that their sincere thanks, and an expression of their lively gratitude, may be conveyed to the gentlemen in question.

I have, &c.,

EDMUND MONSON.

The Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

No. 92.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN.

SIR,

Downing Street, May 27, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt by the last mail of your despatch, of the 9th inst., and of two despatches,* forwarding Mr. Cameron's despatches, of the 7th and 8th inst. respectively, relating to the eruption of the Soufrière volcano in St. Vincent. I have also received direct from Mr. Cameron a duplicate of his despatch of the 9th of May,† on the same subject.

2. I have already expressed in my despatch of the 13th inst.,‡ my deep regret at this sad calamity which has so suddenly befallen the Island, and since writing that despatch, I have been grieved to learn that the disaster is of greater magnitude than I had at the time supposed, and that it is still uncertain whether all danger is yet at an end.

3. I have communicated to you various messages of sympathy, and I trust that the ready response which has been made to the appeal which the Lord Mayor of London was good enough, at my request, to issue, and the prompt and generous assistance which has been forthcoming from many British Colonies, and from the United States of America will enable you successfully to relieve distress, and to cope with the difficulties of the situation.

4. In addition to supplies in kind you will have at your disposal a considerable sum of money. I hope that it may be possible to expend the money received in such a way as not only to relieve for the time the existing distress, but also, as far as possible, to re-establish the industries of the Colony.

5. In my telegram of the 15th inst.,§ I suggested that you should consider whether the services of an officer of high standing from another Colony would be of value in connexion with the administration of relief, and that, if you wished for such an officer, you should apply direct to the Governor of Trinidad. From your reply,|| I gather that you consider the staff on the spot to be adequate for the purpose.

6. In my despatch of the 23rd inst.,¶ I have communicated to you an offer from the Government of Jamaica to co-operate in assisting a certain number to emigrate from St. Vincent to Jamaica, and an offer from the United Fruit Company to provide accommodation and work in Jamaica for two or three hundred settlers. It would be premature to make any observations on the subject until I have received from the Governor of Jamaica the further communication which he has promised, and have learnt from you full details of the result of the eruption.

* Nos. 79, 80 and 81.
‡ No. 48.

† No. 82.
|| No. 70.

‡ No. 30.
¶ No. 85.

7. In a separate despatch* I am addressing you on the subject of the Scientific Commission which is being sent to St. Vincent by the Royal Society.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 93.

FOREIGN OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received May 29, 1902.)

SIR,

Foreign Office, May 28, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at the Hague, enclosing a Bank Note for One thousand florins, which by the commands of the Queen of the Netherlands has been forwarded to him, with an expression of Her Majesty's sympathy, for the relief of the sufferers from the disaster at St. Vincent.

A telegram, a copy of which is also enclosed, has been despatched to Sir H. Howard, instructing him to convey the thanks of His Majesty's Government to the Queen for Her Majesty's generous and humane gift.

I am, &c.,

MARTIN GOSSELIN.

Enclosure 1 in No. 93.

Sir H. HOWARD to the MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE.

(Extract.)

MY LORD,

The Hague, May 23, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, a copy of a letter which I received last evening from the Private Secretary of the Queen of The Netherlands, enclosing by her commands the sum of one thousand florins for the relief of the inhabitants of St. Vincent, and expressing Her Majesty's profound pity for them, as also the sincere and deep interest she takes in their misfortunes.

I have lost no time in acknowledging this most friendly and generous contribution towards the relief of our unfortunate compatriots and in expressing my heartfelt thanks for this Royal Gift, which I added would be most highly appreciated by my Sovereign and all his subjects as a fresh token of Her Majesty's well known goodness of heart, and the friendly feelings she entertains for my country.

* * * * *

I have, &c.,

HENRY HOWARD.

The Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

SIR,

Castle, The Loo, May 21, 1902.

I AM commanded by Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands to forward to Your Excellency enclosed amount (one thousand florins) for the inhabitants of St. Vincent.

Her Majesty pities them profoundly and takes a sincere and deep interest in their misfortune.

I remain, &c.,

A. VAN DER STAAL,

Private Secretary to Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands.

His Excellency

Sir Henry Howard,

&c., &c., &c.

Enclosure 2 in No. 93.

MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE to Sir H. HOWARD, the Hague.

(Sent 10 a.m., May 26, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

Your telegram of the 23rd instant was at once laid before the King and communicated to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The King has been greatly touched by this most friendly and sympathetic action on the part of Queen Wilhelmina.

Pray convey at once the warmest thanks of His Majesty's Government for Her Majesty's generous and humane gift, which will be most cordially appreciated in this country.

No. 94.

FOREIGN OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received June 2, 1902.)

[Answered by No. 102.]

SIR,

Foreign Office, May 29, 1902.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the accompanying copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin, relative to a gift of money from the City of Berlin on behalf of the sufferers in St. Vincent.

I am, &c.,

T. H. SANDERSON.

Enclosure in No. 94.

Sir F. LASCELLES to the MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE.

MY LORD.

Berlin, May 23, 1902

I HAVE the honour to inform Your Lordship that I received a communication yesterday from Herr Kirschner, Ober-Bürgermeister of Berlin, stating that the city authorities had decided to devote forty thousand marks (about £2,000) to the relief of the sufferers from the recent volcanic eruptions in the Antilles, and that it was proposed to give thirty thousand marks (£1,500) from this grant to the inhabitants of the Island of Martinique, and the remaining ten thousand marks (£500) to those of the Island of St. Vincent.

I have returned a suitable reply to Herr Kirschner, in which I stated that I was sure that His Majesty's Government would greatly appreciate this generous offering from the City of Berlin, which I would not fail to bring at once to Your Lordship's notice.

In reply to Herr Kirschner's inquiry as to where the money should be sent, I requested that payment might be made to my banker, from whom I shall obtain a draft for the sum in question for transmission to Your Lordship.

I have, &c.,

FRANK C. LASCELLES.

The Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

No. 95.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR D. WILSON (BRITISH HONDURAS).

SIR,

Downing Street, May 29, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 23rd inst.,* stating that the Legislative Council of British Honduras had voted \$500 for

the relief of the sufferers from the recent volcanic eruption in St. Vincent, and I desire to express my appreciation of this practical and generous expression of their sympathy.

I have caused the Crown Agents for the Colonies to be instructed to arrange for the remittance of this sum to St. Vincent and to debit the amount to British Honduras.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 96.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN (AT ST. VINCENT) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 3.40 p.m., May 29, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

In continuation of my telegram of 14th May,* excessive rain has fallen for three days; volcano still erupting with varying force, but no violent outburst since 18th May; hope the worst is over, but people are still nervous, and, as I am not in a position to assure them that all danger is over, the feeding expenses continue heavy; confidence can only be gradually restored; all arrangements for comfort of injured, relief of destitute, and resettling of people progress satisfactorily.

No. 97.

ACTING GOVERNOR ALLARDYCE (FIJI) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received 9 a.m., May 31, 1902.)

TELEGRAM.

[Answered by No. 101.]

Government and unofficial members of Council have heard with regret loss of life and suffering St. Vincent. Desire to contribute £100 for relief. If you approve please instruct Crown Agents for Colonies.

No. 98.

CONSUL-GENERAL SIR P. SANDERSON to THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE.

(Received in Colonial Office, June 2, 1902.)

MY LORD,

British Consulate-General, New York, May 16, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that the United States auxiliary cruiser "Dixie" left New York on the night of the 14th instant for Martinique, having on board 1,234 tons of food and clothing for distribution among the sufferers from the recent volcanic disturbances in that Island and in Saint Vincent. The United States collier "Sterling" is reported to have left San Juan with supplies for the same purpose, and it is estimated that these two vessels carry sufficient provisions to allow of rations for thirty-six days for 50,000 people.

In addition to the above the Commissariat Department of the United States at New York has been authorised to purchase any additional supplies that may be necessary to supplement those contributed by private persons for shipment to those Islands, and it is stated that Government transport will be provided for all such contributions.

The Chamber of Commerce of New York held a special meeting yesterday of the Martinique and West India Relief Committee consisting of sixty members, and an appeal was issued on behalf of the Committee appointed by the President of the United

States, that appointed by the Chamber of Commerce, and the Committee appointed by the Merchants' Association. Mr. W. R. Corwine, Secretary of the Merchants' Association, who has already had experience in relief work in Porto Rico, has been instructed to proceed to Martinique and Saint Vincent to investigate and report on the conditions, and the best measures to adopt for affording relief. Mr. Corwine leaves by the "Fontebelle" to-morrow.

I have, &c.,

PERCY SANDERSON.

His Majesty's
Principal Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs.

No. 99.

SIR EDMUND MONSON to THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE.

(Received in Colonial Office, June 2, 1902.)

MY LORD,

Paris, May 27, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 25th instant, I have the honour to report that I am in receipt of a note from the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, acknowledging the announcement I had made to him respecting the grants of the Council of Government of Mauritius and of the Municipal Council of Port Louis in aid of the Martinique sufferers.

His Excellency states that the French Government are greatly touched by the generous sentiments of humanity shown by these bodies, and desire to transmit to them the expression of their most sincere gratitude.

I have, &c.,

EDMUND MONSON.

The Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

No. 100.

FOREIGN OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received June 4, 1902.)

SIR,

Foreign Office, June 4, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at The Hague forwarding the sum of 250 florins, which he received from the Master of the Household of the Queen-Mother of the Netherlands as a donation by Her Majesty for the relief of the sufferers in the disasters at St. Vincent.

Sir Henry Howard has been requested to convey to Her Majesty the warmest thanks of His Majesty's Government for this kind gift.

I am, &c.,

MARTIN GOSSELIN.

Enclosure in No. 100.

Sir H. HOWARD to the MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE.

MY LORD,

The Hague, May 29, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 23rd inst., I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter received yesterday afternoon from the Master of

the Household of the Queen-Mother of the Netherlands sending me two hundred and fifty florins for the sufferers by the dreadful disaster in the Island of St. Vincent.

I have acknowledged the receipt of this gracious donation, and have expressed my deep gratitude for the same.

I have, &c.,
HENRY HOWARD.

MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE,

La Haye, 27 Mai, 1902.

D'APRES les ordres de Sa Majesté la Reine-Mère j'ai l'honneur de Vous remettre ci-inclus deux cent cinquante florins, que Sa Majesté m'a chargé de vous faire parvenir, en priant Votre Excellence de vouloir les accepter pour les victimes de l'épouvantable catastrophe de St. Vincent.

Je saisis, &c.,
S. M. DE RANITZ.

No. 101.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to ACTING GOVERNOR ALLARDYCE (FIJI).

SIR,

Downing Street, June 4, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 31st ultimo,* and to inform you, in confirmation of my telegram of 2nd instant,† that I approve of the Legislative Council of Fiji voting the sum of £100 for the relief of the sufferers from the recent eruption in St. Vincent. The necessary instructions have been given to the Crown Agents for the Colonies with regard to remitting that sum to the Island Government.

2. It affords me much pleasure to express my sense of the spontaneous kindness and sympathy which have prompted this generous gift.

I have, &c.,
J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 102.

COLONIAL OFFICE to FOREIGN OFFICE.

SIR,

Downing Street, June 4, 1902.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo,‡ enclosing a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin, relative to a gift of money from the City of Berlin on behalf of the sufferers from the recent volcanic eruption in St. Vincent, and I am to suggest that the thanks of His Majesty's Government may be conveyed to the Berlin city authorities for this generous expression of sympathy.

A copy of Sir F. Lascelles's despatch, which was enclosed in your letter, will be forwarded to the Governor of the Windward Islands by the next mail.

I am, &c.,
C. P. LUCAS.

* No. 97.

† Not printed.

‡ No. 94.

No. 103.

GOVERNOR SIR F. M. HODGSON (BARBADOS) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received June 5, 1902.)

[Answered by Nos. 118 and 140.]

SIR,

Government House, Barbados, May 17, 1902.

I HAD the honour, on the 10th instant, to report to you by telegraph* that upon hearing, on the morning of that date, of the very serious calamity which had befallen the people of Martinique in consequence of the eruption of the La Pelée volcano, the Government of Barbados had despatched to Fort de France two Medical Officers with medical and surgical equipment, and a supply of foodstuffs for distribution among those who had become dependent upon outside aid. On the 12th instant I reported by telegraph† the return of the mission, which I had placed in charge of the Colonial Secretary, and I gave you a brief summary of the information as to the calamity which he had found it possible to gather during his visit.

2. In the early days of this month there had been short announcements in the news telegrams from New York of the activity of La Pelée, but there was nothing in them to cause alarm. However, on the 6th May a telegram, dated Martinique, 5th May, was received here, stating that the Usine Guerin, which is situated about two miles from the commercial town of St. Pierre, had been completely destroyed by lava from the volcano, and that one hundred and fifty persons were reported to have disappeared, including M. Eugene Guerin, the proprietor. This was followed by the interruption of all cable communication with Martinique, and it was not until the morning of Saturday, the 10th May that the appalling intelligence of the total destruction of St. Pierre on the 8th May, with an estimated loss of 40,000 lives came to hand in a telegram from St. Vincent.

3. It was at once clear that this fearful catastrophe would cause widespread distress, and that aid in the shape of medical assistance and food supplies would be urgently required. Therefore, after a hurried consultation with the Members of the Executive Committee, who were available, and with some of the more prominent merchants, I decided, as it was the unanimous wish to send assistance, to assume the responsibility of purchasing foodstuffs, and despatching them to the scene as soon as possible, with Medical Officers and such medical equipment as could be got together at short notice. This was rendered practicable by Captain Owen, R.N.R., the local Superintendent of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, having voluntarily placed the Royal Mail Steamer "Solent" at the disposal of the Government for the purpose, and I beg that his promptness of action, for which this Government is much indebted, may be brought to the notice of the Directors of the Company.

4. The work of purchasing and collecting stores was undertaken chiefly by Mr. Wright, M.C.P., and I entrusted to Dr. Manning, the Medical Officer recently appointed by you to be Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, the work of making the necessary arrangements as regards medical stores and equipment. So hard did they work that everything was on board by 6 p.m., shortly after which hour the "Solent" left on its mission of succour. I must also bring to notice the ready and valuable assistance given throughout by Colonel E. B. Booth, Commanding the Troops, and Lieutenant-Colonel E. A. Roche, Royal Army Medical Corps, by whom all available military medical stores were placed at the disposal of the Government. The management of the arrangements fell upon the shoulders of Mr. Newton, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, whom, as I have already reported, I placed in charge of the mission, and whose energy and hard work I cannot speak too highly of.

5. Accompanying the mission were Major F. Will and Major G. Bent, both of the Royal Army Medical Corps, who volunteered their services, one Corporal and four Orderlies of the same Corps, and three trained nurses from the General Hospital, also Dr. Aughinbaugh, an American medical practitioner.

6. I transmit a copy of a letter which I addressed to the Governor of Martinique, and a copy of M. L'huerre's reply. The Governor, with his wife and daughter, had

* No. 17.

† No. 29.

perished at St. Pierre, and the Government of the Colony had devolved upon M. L'huerre.

7. The Colonial Secretary in his report, which I have the honour to forward to you, records his reception at Fort de France and the gratitude displayed for the timely supply of provisions. Medical aid was, it was found, not required, as there were practically no injured persons. Everyone who had come within the area of the eruption, with the exception of a few seamen from the steamship "Roraima," of the Quebec Line, and other vessels in the roadstead, having been killed outright.

8. The effect of the destruction of St. Pierre, which seems to be comparable to that of Pompeii and Herculaneum, is told by Mr. Newton in his report, and again by Dr. Manning, in the report of which I enclose a copy. Death came alike to all in the town. Not one seems to have found it possible to escape from the suffocating fumes of the horrible outburst, and the accompanying continuous hail of ignited matter. The scene is one which, from its merciful unfamiliarity, it is impossible to depict, and one can only hope that unconsciousness came quickly to those who were overwhelmed in the cataclysm, and that the worse horrors of death by burning were thus spared to them.

9. The vessels destroyed were, so far as I can ascertain, the steamship "Roraima" (a photograph of which, while burning, I am able to attach, with eleven others, to this despatch; they were taken by a member of the Barbados Government Mission), the West India and Panama Telegraph Company's Cable Ship "Grappler," all on board of which perished, three Italian barques, viz., the "Teresa Lobico," "Sacro More," and "Nord America," (?), a French three-masted schooner, the "Tamaya," a French barquentine (the name of which I have been unable to obtain), and several small vessels engaged in coasting and inter-colonial trade.

10. On board the steamship "Roraima" were several passengers, some of whom had embarked at Barbados. All appear to have perished, and the only survivors are the following, who were rescued by the French Cruiser "Suchet," and placed in the Military hospital at Fort-de-France:—

From steamship "Roraima."—

*F. Scott, First Mate.	
Charles Evans, Second Engineer.	
John Morris, Fourth Engineer.	
Linder Gust, Carpenter	} Natives of the United States.
G. Maher, Seaman	
Joseph Beckles, Seaman, Native of Barbados.	
*Thompson, Assistant Purser.	

From the "Teresa Lobico."—

François Dangalo, Di Fiori, J. Provansano, Petagro Porfilio. All were badly burned.

11. Mr. Bowring, the Agent in Barbados for the Quebec Line of Steamers, accompanied the Barbados Government Mission to Martinique. He obtained the following account from the surviving officers and seamen of the steamship "Roraima," whom he visited in the hospital.

"We arrived at St. Pierre on Thursday morning, and were just about to discharge; the bow anchor and kedge being out. We were about one hundred yards off shore, anchored to a buoy in about thirty feet of water. We started discharging cargo but knocked off for breakfast. Soon after we saw a black cloud coming from the mountain. Then an awful explosion took place, and a bomb, as it were, burst over the mountain side, extending over an area of twenty miles and letting out liquid fire. Mr. Testarte, English correspondent at the Agency, had left the 'Roraima,' with the papers, to go to the 'Roddam,' when he was suddenly struck by a shower of the burning stuff and fell into the water and was lost. Evans and Morris, who were in the engine-room, rushed on deck, flames met and rolled them back. Meanwhile the ship had caught fire all over. They stayed in the engine-room until driven out by heat, when they came out and dashed into No. 2 hold, which had not yet caught. Carpenter Linder Gust, says he was in the W.C., he came out and found it raining red-hot cinders, he rushed on deck and found Captain Muggah with his clothes blazing, and Joseph Beckles trying to extinguish the fire. The Captain rushed aft for his papers and got more

* These two officers were subsequently taken from the hospital to New York by the Quebec Line Steamer "Korona."

burnt. The Mate grappled him as he was about to jump into the sea. Linder Gust and Beckles tore down the door of the carpenter's room, and after some further struggling with the Captain, who was in fearful agony, lured him on to it, and Beckles swam ashore with him and put him on a piece of wreckage. Beckles then returned to the ship to try to see what assistance he could render to others. At 4 o'clock the cruiser 'Suchet' arrived and sent in her boats to the burning steamer and took off the men, who were most of them severely injured by burns, and one or two dying, and carried them to Fort-de-France. The steamship 'Korona' called next day at Fort-de-France and took the Mate and Assistant Purser back on to New York." Mr. Bowring adds:—

"It is believed that Captain Muggah must have died soon after he reached the shore, as he was in a collapsed condition. He was a brave seaman, who was generally liked in every Colony in these parts."

"The tales told by the Italians of the 'Teresa Lobico' corroborated in every detail the account of the outburst as given by the 'Roraima' men.

"The destruction was as sudden as it was complete. The attitudes of the dead in many cases showed that some were struck down by electrical discharges. Outside the Grand Hotel, for instance, the body of a man was found with a piece of bread in his fingers with the marks of the bite on it. He had evidently jumped from the table and rushed to the door when death met him. With two exceptions every particle of clothing had been burnt off the corpses seen on shore, and the bodies were so burnt that recognition would have been in most cases a matter of impossibility."

12. There is one episode in the disaster to which I must refer, namely, the escape of the British steamer "Roddam," of the Scrutton Line. This steamer has a steel deck, and it was owing to this fact that the vessel did not catch fire like the steamship "Roraima," and the others. But she would not even then have escaped but for the presence of mind and bravery of E. W. Freeman, the Master, who tells the story of the escape in the following words which, perhaps, have already reached you:—

"When the "Roddam" was approaching Martinique in the early morning of the 8th, the Captain saw smoke being ejected from the burning crater of Mount Pelée, and he consulted with Mr. Campbell, the Supercargo, as to the advisability of keeping clear of that Island. He advised that he should go near and, if he saw other steamers in the harbour to remain, if not, to continue his journey.

"The Captain approached and saw the steamship 'Roraima' and the 'Grappler' in the bay riding quietly at anchor, so he dropped his anchor close to the shore. At about 8.15 he was in the chart room—a good many of the sailors were leaning over the side of the vessel watching the distant mountain, which was emitting dense clouds of smoke and occasional flashes of light. Mr. Campbell was talking to Mr. Plissonneau on the deck. On a sudden he (the Captain) heard a tremendous noise, as though the entire land had parted asunder. Simultaneous with the noise there was a great rush of wind, which immediately agitated the sea, and tossed the shipping to and fro; he rushed out of the chart-room, and looking over the town and across the hills he saw a sight he cannot describe. He remembers calling out to Mr. Campbell and saying 'look,' and then an avalanche of lava was upon them. It immediately caught the town afire as it passed over it, likewise the shipping. It struck his ship with the terrific force of a mighty hammer, and the lava rained upon the deck. Everyone, as far as he could see, sought shelter at once, but the heat was so great and the air so suffocating that Mr. Campbell and many of the crew, among whom was the Chief Mate, threw themselves in despair overboard. Some crawled from where they had hidden themselves on to the deck to obtain a breath of air and were roasted upon the fiery hot ashes. He did not lose his head, his first thought was to try and save his ship and such of his crew as were still alive. He rang the bell for full speed astern, and the heroes below turned on the steam. He had time to slip his anchor, and he was off. As his steering gear was rather difficult to manage he once or twice nearly ran foul of the steamship 'Roraima' which was on fire. He saw two still figures standing on the bridge with arms folded heroically awaiting their end. One of them waved a good-bye to him. There were a good many passengers on board, these were rushing up and down in anguish. When he was steaming out of port he looked down at the burning city. A pall had enveloped it, but through it he could plainly see the skeletons of burning houses, and the shadowy figures of men and women running hither and thither in their terror, and above the loud din of the falling cinders, the roar of the raging sea, he heard the agonised cries of 30,000 voices. He knows not how he managed to reach this port in safety, with twenty-two of his men dead, seventeen, including himself, badly injured.

He believed he was the only one of the Captains who were in that Hell fire who has escaped.

"The voyage lasted nine hours, at times he knew not where he was; he was in awful agony, and many a time he felt as though it were better to give it up and die, still he stuck to his post, and Providence guided his hand and brought him and his crew and his vessel into a safe haven."

The list of dead and injured among the crew is as follows:—

E. W. Freeman, Master, badly burnt on face and hands, in hospital and progressing favourably.
 H. W. Law, First Mate, dead.
 G. W. Lawry, Second Mate, dead.
 Y. Yeckon, Cook, dead.
 F. Larsen, Carpenter, dead.
 T. Good, Steward, dead.
 Hans Jansen, Boatswain, alive and well.
 J. H. Walters, Chief Engineer, dead.
 George Pyle and S. Schleswick, Second and Third Engineers, alive and well.
 Hubert Hansen, Donkeyman, badly burnt and in hospital.
 A. Turmansen, P. Pedersen, W. Tenopke, Fireman and Trimmers, dead.
 E. J. Andersen, James Gulp, Firemen and Trimmers, badly burnt and in hospital.
 Aksel Taversen, Mess-room Steward, dead.
 Kaal Petersen, Hooby Jansen, G. Froisberg, E. Amtansen, A. Johansen, C. Strauss, Able-bodied Seamen, badly burnt and in hospital.

13. I trust that it will appear to you expedient that in connection with the arrangements which have been so generously made for the relief of the sufferers in Martinique, the bravery of Captain E. W. Freeman, should not be overlooked, and I would urge, if it is not out of place for me to do so, that a portion of the sums subscribed should be devoted to the relief of the families of those who perished on board the British steamers "Roddam," "Roraima," and "Grappler."

14. I may add that at the request of the Governor of British Guiana I purchased and sent to Martinique by His Majesty's Ship "Indefatigable," on the 17th instant, as a gift from the Government and people of that Colony, food stuffs of the value of £1,000.

I have, &c.,

F. M. HODGSON.

P.S.—20th May. The steamship "Roddam" having arrived here from St. Lucia to re-fit, I have taken the opportunity of obtaining the accompanying statements from the 2nd and 3rd Engineers, both of whom escaped alive from the disaster. It is clear from these reports that there were two outbursts of the volcano. The first at 7.50 a.m., which is the exact time at which the clock in the façade of the Military hospital stopped, and the other ten minutes later. The shock of the first was so severe as to cause the "Roddam" to be thrown on her beam ends. I have been on board the "Roddam." It has the appearance of having passed through a furnace. Where the port holes were open on the port side, which was the side facing the volcano, the blast of heat which rushed through them was so great as to burn the wood-work on the opposite side of the cabins, there being a clearly defined charred spot where the blast struck it. Everywhere the paint is blistered or gone altogether. Holes were burnt through the boats and all the rigging destroyed, the ropes being reduced to tinder. The ship was covered over a foot deep in volcanic dust. Most of this had already been removed, but I am sending you a small tin-full of it, as it may be of interest.

F. M. HODGSON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 103.

The GOVERNOR OF BARBADOS to the GOVERNOR OF MARTINIQUE.

SIR,

Government House, May 10, 1902.

HAVING to-day heard of the very serious calamity which has befallen the Island of Martinique, the Government of Barbados has decided to send a supply of foodstuffs

for distribution among those who are suffering. Medical Officers are also being sent, with such medical stores and equipment as could be got together at such short notice. This letter will be presented to Your Excellency by the Colonial Secretary of Barbados, who will express to you the profound sympathy of myself and of the Government and people of Barbados at the terrible catastrophe which has occurred. With the assurance of my most profound esteem.

I have, &c.,
F. M. HODGSON,
Governor of Barbados.

Enclosure 2 in No. 103.

Translation of a letter from the GOVERNOR OF MARTINIQUE to the GOVERNOR OF BARBADOS.

M. LE GOUVERNEUR-GENERAL,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the provisions and supplies which you have been good enough to send me in aid of the unfortunate victims of the town of St. Pierre.

The Colony which I have the honour to administer will, you may be convinced, retain the ineffaceable recollection of the practical evidence of the deep obligation which you have rendered.

I shall retain the best recollection of the visit to Fort-de-France of your Colonial Secretary, whose kindness and attention have been above all praise.

Be good enough to accept, &c.,
G. L'HUERRE.

Enclosure 3 in No. 103.

Copy of report by the COLONIAL SECRETARY on the Martinique disaster.

SIR,

May 13, 1902.

IN accordance with the written instructions received from Your Excellency on Saturday last, I have the honour to report that I left Barbados at 8.6 p.m. on that day in the Royal Mail Steamer "Solent," accompanied by the following:—

- Dr. Manning, Chief Medical Officer.
- Major Will, Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Dr. John Hutson.
- Major Bent, Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Dr. Aughinbaugh (Washington, United States of America).
- Mr. A. D. Whatman.
- Mr. W. H. Alder.
- Mr. Gloumeau.
- Mr. A. P. G. Austin.
- Mr. de Courcy Hamilton.
- Mr. Rym.
- Mr. W. Bowring (Agent, Q.S.S.Co.).
- Mr. Chenery (Advocate).
- Mr. A. J. Clare, Vice-Consul, United States of America.
- Three professional nurses.
- One Corporal and four Orderlies, Royal Army Medical Corps.

I have the honour to enclose a copy of a report by Dr. Manning, in which are set forth the Medical Staff, equipment and appliances collected by him and others. Dr. Manning deserves great credit for the rapidity with which he made all necessary preparations for his party and their outfit at so short a notice.

I have also to enclose a statement of provisions purchased on the 10th instant in accordance with instructions received from Your Excellency. These provisions were ordered and shipped in good time, chiefly through the activity of Mr. J. O. Wright, M.C.P., whose ready and willing help deserves the acknowledgment of Your Excellency's Government. The "Solent" arrived at Fort-de-France, the capital of

Martinique, at 6.55 a.m., and Dr. Manning and myself, accompanied by Mr. Gloumeau, at once went ashore in the Port Captain's boat. On landing we observed a few bags of provisions being landed from the "Topage," a small launch from Saint Lucia. I proceeded immediately to the office of the Acting Governor, whose substantive post is that of Secrétaire-General, and handed him Your Excellency's letter of the 10th. M. L'huerre and those around him, the Colonel-Commandant and others, expressed in the warmest terms their grateful acknowledgments to Your Excellency and the Government of Barbados for having sent us, and I then reported to the Acting Governor how, and in what way, we were prepared to give him assistance, viz., by handing him a supply of provisions and by placing at his disposal a surgical establishment of at least three medical men, three nurses, a corporal and orderlies, two marquees and fifty cots.

M. L'huerre expressed himself once more as "*fortement touché*," and readily accepted my offer of the provisions. He explained that the "Suchet" and the cable ship were just starting to bring down from the northern end of the Island innumerable persons whose source of supplies in St. Pierre was cut off; these they were obliged to shelter and feed, and thus supplies were, until our arrival, very limited. As regards the hospital party, he explained that one of the results of this appalling disaster was that there were practically no persons injured, burned or wounded, who had not been killed outright. There might be a few cases (he only mentioned one) other than the seamen then in their hospital, but not more than what the resources of their Military and Civil Hospitals could deal with.

I then proceeded to the office of the Mayor of Fort-de-France, who was in charge of the relief operations, and he arranged to have lighters alongside the "Solent" at 1 p.m. to take over the provisions.

At 8.25 I left Fort-de-France, and the "Solent" immediately proceeded to St. Pierre, about twelve miles to the north, where we proposed to land and personally investigate.

The aspect of the harbour and town, as viewed from the sea at 10 a.m., was a mournful one. The sea was grey, and in the immediate foreground was the still burning hull of the "Roraima," black with grey jets of smoke and steam issuing fore and aft, and from her hull at the water's edge. The pier had been washed away, and traces might be seen of fourteen or fifteen smaller craft wrecked and sunk. Immediately behind there appeared what seventy-five hours before had been a beautiful, green, populous and prosperous-looking town, with tiers of houses and fair gardens, now a grey slope of broken walls, and ash-covered streets, with smoke still rolling up here and there from smouldering heaps. The façade of the Military hospital still stood, with the begrimed clock-face marking the hour, 7.50, when the conflagration must have been at its height. The west front of the cathedral still stood, with two broken towers, and the great bell lying on the débris below. Not a roof could be seen, and for the most part the walls of the houses had crumbled or fallen away below the first storey. On the heights above a few sentries or gendarmes were on watch, but in the town itself no sign of a living thing which could have survived the blast. At the back, to the left of the picture, could be seen from time to time, as the clouds of dust and smoke lifted, the square-topped summit of La Pelée.

As to the precise nature of the force which had wrought this havoc, no doubt scientific enquiry will be made. It was apparently no mere volcanic eruption, such as that which had destroyed the Usine Guérin on the previous Monday. There were no signs of lava in the town that we could see, though it was reported that lava was still flowing in the water-courses of Roxelane and the Rivière Blanche, to the north. The survivors from the "Roraima" and others describe a matter in a state of "fusion" and ignited, which fell like hail after a tremendous explosion and blast of heated air. Two of the survivors from the "Roddam" state that there were two distinct blasts or explosions at an interval of some minutes, one seemingly from the top of the volcano, the other, far more violent, and apparently issuing from the side of the mountain. This ignited matter fell on the wooden decks of the "Roraima" and set her on fire. The "Roddam," an iron ship, escaped. That this matter was in a state of fusion, is not so certain, though so far the evidence of the survivors is to that effect.

That tremendous force had accompanied its discharge is shown by the trees on the "Place" adjoining the quay having been uprooted and turned over, and these are short, sturdy trees, well capable of resistance. Again, I have a recollection of some strong iron railings in front of the cathedral, in November last, and they are mentioned in Mr. Paton's book on the Caribbees. Our party walked over these railings lying

torn and bent among the débris. Their upheaval and destruction could only have been effected by some extraordinary force. The conflagration alone could not have done this.

That the matter was ignited is certain, and I may mention that no trace of wood or woodwork was visible among the débris, not even a charred beam or rafter. By the seaside things were different, the shore being strewn with wreckage washed up, no doubt, from the many wrecks lying in the harbour.

We landed without difficulty close to where the lighthouse had stood. This is utterly destroyed, and the fact has no doubt been duly notified.

Our party visited the "Place," at the foot of the quay, and passed on past the Club, the Hotel des Bains, the Post Office, the two Banks, the Consulates of Great Britain and the United States, the Military Hospital, the Cable Company's Office, and the Cathedral. All of these buildings were utterly destroyed, a few feet of broken walls only in most cases being left. There were a few traces to show what they had been. There were the safes in the two banks apparently intact, the brass frame and wheels, on which the burners of the lighthouse lamp had stood, lay beneath the stump of the tower, the metal name-plate lay in front of the Cable Company's office, and lamps, dishes, plates and billiard balls were found within the four walls of the Hotel des Bains.

At the cathedral the west front stood higher than any other building in the town, but the great bell had dropped from the belfry and lay, half-buried, on its side. The altar table seemed less damaged than might have been supposed, and much of the stone and metal designs were easily discernible.

Wherever we went, whether in the streets or among the ruined houses, lay corpses everywhere, out in the open, or partly hidden in holes or under heaps of fallen bricks or stone, they lay in every conceivable position, crouching, extended or with limbs rigidly contorted, but nearly all prone and all bearing the appearance of having been overtaken by a swift and violent death.

We returned to the boats at noon, and after pulling round the still burning "Roraima," embarked on the "Solent" for Fort-de-France.

On our return there I repaired immediately, in company with Dr. Manning, to the office of the Chief Medical Officer, with a view of ascertaining to what extent the services of our Medical Officers and staff could be utilised on an occasion like this, when practically no lives in the zone of fire had been spared. The Chief Medical Officer was able to say that, in his opinion, there was no need for special medical service, and the forces at the disposal of himself and the Civil Authorities were ample to deal with all cases likely to come in, and that there had been no strain upon the resources of their hospital establishments so far, though he was anxious lest an epidemic should result from the crowding of the refugees, but of that there was no immediate prospect. I then visited the Mayor and received the same assurance from him that they were in no urgent need of surgical or medical assistance, and this view was subsequently confirmed by the Acting Governor.

In the circumstances, and guided by Your Excellency's instructions, I decided to hand over all the foodstuffs and provisions to the Mayor for distribution as he thought best, and he has undertaken to furnish me with a full receipt of all goods supplied and an account of their disposal, but I decided that it was not necessary to leave any of the medical staff or stores at Martinique, and they have all returned with me.

I then took leave of M. L'huerre, the Acting Governor, who once more expressed in the warmest terms the gratitude of himself and the Colony of Martinique for the assistance sent to him so promptly by Barbados. He also handed me the letter which I had the honour to deliver to Your Excellency on my return.

On returning to the harbour to embark, we had an opportunity of observing numbers of refugees from the northern part of the Island, who had just been brought down to be sheltered and fed. The French cruiser "Suchet," the French Cable Company's ship, and the "Valkyrian," a Danish cruiser, had started just before we left for St. Pierre, for the purpose of collecting these refugees. We were assured that there was no sickness among these people, nor any injured or wounded, but that as St. Pierre had been their source of supply, it was necessary to bring them down to give them food from Fort-de-France, and our supply of rations was most acceptable on that account. Over two thousand, we were informed, had been brought down that day. Those that we saw appeared in good health and to be perfectly free from injury. They carried with them all the property they could, fearful, no doubt, of another eruption. Clothing, furniture, bedding, poultry and produce were carried in their

hands, and they were to be billeted out in all the available buildings, chiefly school-houses in the town, and our rations were to be issued to them that evening.

I may mention here that some of our party visited the "Suchet" in the course of the afternoon and received from her Commander the warmest expressions of thanks. He endorsed the opinion of the Chief Medical Officer, the Mayor, and the Acting Governor, that beyond supplies of provisions, there was nothing of which they were in urgent need.

We embarked at Fort-de-France at about sunset and found the "Solent" still discharging her supplies. Two lighters were just leaving the ship loaded, and as soon as the last barrel was placed on the third lighter, we started for Barbados. I am therefore unable to produce the Mayor's receipts, as time could not be allowed for us to wait for the lighters to reach the shore, and their contents verified, but a careful tally was kept of all goods that went over the ship's side, which has been found to agree substantially with the statement, and the bills of lading furnished to Mr. Alder by Mr. Wright and the merchants respectively.

We sailed from Martinique at about sunset, and reached Bridgetown yesterday morning, having experienced every kindness and attention on the voyage from Captain Davies and the Officers of the "Solent."

I have been unable to advise Captain Owen, who so readily placed the ship at Your Excellency's disposal, of our return, and to tender him the grateful acknowledgments of our party, as I understand he has sailed for Antigua.

I have, &c.,
F. J. NEWTON,
Colonial Secretary.

Copy of Dr. MANNING's Report.

SIR,

Coombe House, May 12, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to make the following report, for the information of His Excellency the Governor. Having received instructions, at 1.45 p.m. on the 10th, to organise and take charge of a medical relief party to proceed to Martinique on the same day, I at once set to work and succeeded in making the following arrangements. The garrison sent us two of its Medical Officers, viz., Surgeon-Majors Will and Bent, four men of the ambulance corps, with stretchers and two large tents. Drs. Hutson and Aughinbaugh also volunteered their services. The hospital authorities lent us an ample supply of instruments and surgical appliances. The Sanitary Board liberally placed at my disposal fifty cots, with blankets, clothing, &c. An ample supply of drugs and hospital stores were also got together, and a complete outfit for fifty beds was put on board at 6 p.m. on the evening of the 10th. I left instructions for supplementing this outfit if necessary, and certain ladies cheerfully volunteered their services, and offered to assist in whatever way I might subsequently suggest. We arrived at Fort-de-France at 7 a.m. on the morning of the 11th, and as soon as the Colonial Secretary had arranged certain matters of business, we proceeded to St. Pierre, and arrived there at noon. A boat's party was landed to explore the town and ascertain whether by chance there might be any suffering from injuries or burns requiring our aid. Words can never describe the scene at St. Pierre. There was not a single building intact, the streets were chokefull of fallen stones, iron-work, galvanized roofing, dust and débris. Dead bodies, charred and putrid, were everywhere to be seen, there was no living soul left to tell the tale out of a population of some thirty thousand inhabitants. The great majority of the victims were lying on their faces, and the attitude of the heads and arms clearly indicated they died doing all they could to avoid the smoke and heat which suffocated them. This scene can never be forgotten, nor can words convey a correct impression of this awful catastrophe. Finding that without a single exception all were dead and utterly beyond the pale of medical or surgical aid, we re-embarked and returned to Fort-de-France to ascertain whether there was any undue strain on their hospital system there, and if there was we offered our services to assist them. But we found that out of thousands of refugees whom we saw being landed, none required medical assistance, and, furthermore, we were informed by both Civil and Military Authorities that there was no undue strain on their hospitals, so having sent on shore our supply of foodstuffs, which we have every reason to believe were most acceptable, we left Martinique for Barbados, and arrived here at 9 a.m.

this morning. If the medical mission failed to afford any relief it was through no inefficiency or lack of zeal of those engaged to serve in it, but because death had done his work so completely that no victim had escaped alive. I cannot close this report without expressing my sincere thanks to all who so willingly and zealously came forward to assist me, for without the great assistance which I received from all quarters, it would have been utterly impossible for me to have completed these arrangements in such a short space of time.

I have, &c.,
C. J. MANNING.

SUPPLIES PURCHASED FOR MARTINIQUE.

Supplied by.	Quantity and Description.	Value.
J. R. Bancroft and Company	54 bags, flour	£ s. d. 41 1 3
" "	46 barrels, flour... ..	38 6 8
J. W. Croney	100 barrels, bread	59 14 2
W. L. Johnson and Company	25 barrels, flour... ..	23 8 9
" "	25 bags, flour	19 10 7½
" "	7 hogsheads, ice	10 6 10
Clairmonte, Man and Company	25 casks, fish	65 2 1
S. P. Musson, Son and Company	25 casks, fish	65 2 1
" "	74 barrels, flour... ..	65 10 5
" "	26 barrels, flour... ..	23 11 3
Da Costa and Company	57 barrels, flour... ..	53 8 9
" "	50 barrels, flour... ..	46 17 6
" "	143 bags, flour	104 5 5
" "	200 barrels, bread	118 15 0
" "	Cartage and lighterage	2 16 3
" "	20 cases of brandy	12 10 0
" "	20 cases of milk	20 0 0
" "	Lighterage	0 1 8
C. F. Harrison and Company	1 ware basin, returned broken	0 3 6
		770 12 2½

LIST OF GOODS GIVEN TO MARTINIQUE.

J. R. Bancroft and Company	1 cask, fish.
" "	1 bag, flour.
" "	2 barrels, bread.
W. L. Johnson and Company	1 cask, fish.
" "	2 barrels, bread.
Da Costa and Company	20 barrels, flour.

Enclosure 4 in No. 103.

The Statement of GEORGE PYLE, now Chief Engineer of the steamship "Roddam."

I was Second Engineer of the steamship "Roddam," and signed articles of agreement at South Shields on the 4th April. We left Saint Lucia at 12.45 a.m., on the

8th May, arrived at St. Pierre, Martinique, at 7.20 a.m., the same day, and were ordered to proceed to the quarantine ground, which is about two miles south of the usual anchorage. The Captain had given orders to keep steam ready to return to the anchorage, and so I was in the engine-room with E. J. Anderson and James Gulp, firemen, and E. Flues, donkeyman. At 7.50 a.m., the first outburst took place, and the vessel was thrown on her beam ends. When the hot dust began to fall thicker the Captain ordered every man to his station to get the ship away. The Third Engineer came down into the engine-room, and I ordered him to get the skylights closed. He started up the stairs to do so but was struck in the face by the blast of hot dust and fainted. It then became too dark to work, and we could hardly breathe. As soon as the dust thinned a little and the Third Engineer came to, we closed the skylights, went back to the engine-room and got the engines ready. The first order from the bridge was "full speed astern," we started the engines, and with the help of the three men already mentioned, worked the ship back to Saint Lucia. The First Mate is supposed to have been blown off the fore-castle head by the violence of the blast.

I was only slightly burned on my back.

Taken on board the steamship "Roddam," at Barbados, the 19th May, 1902.

A. BROWNE,

Assistant Harbour Master.

Enclosure 5 in No. 103.

The Statement of S. G. Schleswick, Third Engineer of the steamship "Roddam."

I am the Third Engineer of the steamship "Roddam," and was on board this ship on the morning of the 8th May, when she was lying at anchor in the quarantine ground off St. Pierre, Martinique. I was sitting on deck with the Chief Engineer, Mr. J. H. Walters, watching the thick cloud of smoke coming out of the volcano, when it burst out with flame. A cloud of hot dust came rushing over the town towards the ship, setting the houses in the town on fire at once, and then striking the ship so hard on her port side that she listed over and took in water through her ports. The Chief Engineer started to the fore-castle to get his men ready, and before he could get back to his room fell unconscious on the deck and was most horribly burned. I picked him up and restored him to consciousness, but he died before we got back to Saint Lucia. On deck, when the blast of hot dust struck us were, the Captain, the Chief Officer, Second Officer, Carpenter, Mr. Alan Campbell, the Supercargo, Mr. Plissonneau, the Agent, and several labourers. The Captain and some of the labourers were saved, I think, by running into the chart room; Mr. Campbell and some of the labourers jumped overboard and must have been drowned; Mr. Plissonneau reached Saint Lucia alive, and was taken into the hospital. The sea seemed to be boiling. There were two separate outbursts; the first at 7.50 a.m., from the top of the mountain, the second at 8 a.m., from the side of the mountain, which seemed to be ripped open, it was the first outburst which caught the houses and shipping on fire. After the second blast fell on us, and while we were leaving the harbour, it was too dark to see what was taking place in the shipping. The ship was on fire in several places and all the wood-work, boats and rigging, where not destroyed, were badly burned.

Taken on board the steamship "Roddam," at Barbados, the 19th May, 1902.

A. BROWNE,

Assistant Harbour Master.

No. 104.

GOVERNOR SIR F. M. HODGSON (BARBADOS) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received June 5, 1902.)

[Answered by No. 125.]

SIR.

Government House, May 17, 1902.

In a separate despatch of even date,* I have transmitted to you all the information I have been able to obtain as to the fearful disaster which has befallen the

people of Martinique, and I have reported to you the action which this Government found it possible to take in the matter. I have now the honour to address you on the subject of the outbreak of the Soufrière volcano in St. Vincent, after a quiescent period of 90 years.

2. The first intimation of trouble was a brief telegram received here from St. Vincent on the 6th instant that there had been shocks of earthquake and that smoke was issuing from the crater. About 2 p.m. on the following date loud reports, resembling the firing of big guns, were clearly heard at Barbados, and in the direction of St. Vincent the sky was hidden by an inky black thickness of clouds. During the afternoon it was reported by telegraph that the Soufrière was in full eruption, and that pebbles and ashes were falling in Kingstown, St. Vincent.

3. By 5 p.m. Barbados was shrouded in the darkness of night, and a rain of coarse, gritty dust had begun to fall. The atmosphere was hot and thick, and the rain of dust, which penetrated into everything and everywhere, continued without intermission until about 10 p.m., when it ceased altogether. The night was very hot but the sky cleared and the thunder and lightning which had occurred at intervals passed away. Daylight showed all Bridgetown, and, indeed, all Barbados, covered with volcanic dust, and it has since been estimated that some 2,000,000 tons of dust must have fallen on the island. The dust has been chemically examined by Professor d'Albuquerque, as it was thought that it might possibly contain fertilizing ingredients. His report, of which I transmit a copy, shows that it has no fertilizing value. During the whole time of the downpour a fairly strong wind was blowing from the east, and as St. Vincent lies 95 miles to the westward of Barbados, it is conjectured that there were upper currents of air blowing eastward, that the dust was hurled from the volcano into these upper currents, and so borne eastward against the direction of the wind then prevailing.

4. About 6 p.m. on the 7th instant, while the dust was falling, I endeavoured to place myself in telegraphic communication with the Governor of the Windward Islands, but it was not until the following morning that I got a telegram through asking what was the state of things at St. Vincent, and what assistance would be required from Barbados. To this telegram I received the reply, copy enclosed, which was evidently sent before the appalling character of the disaster had been realized.

5. On the 10th instant, the day on which I despatched relief to the sufferers at Martinique, it became clear from the news telegrams received from St. Vincent that there was great distress there, and that medical aid should be sent. Accordingly, on the return of the Royal Mail Steamer "Solent," on the 12th instant, Lieutenant-Colonel E. B. Booth, Commanding the Troops, very promptly arranged for Major Will, of the Royal Army Medical Corps, proceeding at once to St. Vincent with tents, cots and surgical equipment. He was accompanied by six non-commissioned officers and men.

6. Late on the 14th instant I received telegrams from the Governor of British Guiana asking me to expend five thousand dollars in provisions or clothing or remittances, and from the Governor of the Windward Islands asking for the services of two medical officers. His Majesty's Ship "Indefatigable" having arrived at Barbados on the 15th instant, I sent by that ship Dr. John Hutson, Poor Law Inspector, and Dr. Colin Bowen, a private medical practitioner. The latter has gone to the advance hospital at Georgetown, and the former is working with Major Will at Kingstown. By the same opportunity I sent a large quantity of provisions on behalf of the Government and people of British Guiana, and at the same time the commercial community of Barbados sent as a free gift stores of the value of £300.

7. The House of Assembly meets on Tuesday, the 20th instant, and will then be asked to vote £1,200 for the relief of the sufferers by the disasters in Martinique and St. Vincent. I have also opened a subscription list in aid of the sufferers at St. Vincent, and several subscriptions have already been received.

8. The disaster at St. Vincent, though not so appalling as that at Martinique, appears to have been very severe. Besides laying waste a vast tract of fertile country it has involved the death of 1,600 persons, as well as the wounding with frightful burns, causing heartrending suffering, of some 160 persons, of whom 30 have already died. Whole families have been wiped out; 5,000 persons have been rendered homeless and destitute; 2,000 head of cattle have been killed, and damage has been done which at a low estimate amounts to £60,000. It is, therefore, with great satisfaction to all in Barbados, and I doubt not to all British subjects in the West Indies, that it has been announced that at your desire the Lord Mayor of London has been good enough to open a subscription list at the Mansion House. St. Vincent is not a pros-

perous Colony; it has barely recovered from the terrible effects of the hurricane of 1898, and the British West Indian Colonies, while full of sympathy for the sufferers there, and of determination to help them to the utmost of their resources, are themselves lacking sufficient means to meet the widespread distress which exists. Outside aid is, therefore, imperative, and the facts which the Governor of the Windward Islands will be able to make known should, and I doubt not will, elicit the ever-ready generosity of the British public.

9. I transmit a copy of a statement made to me by the Harbour Master, of vessels arriving at Barbados, and reporting the distance at which the volcanic dust of the Soufrière had been met with. Separately, as it may be of interest, I am sending a tin of the dust which fell upon Barbados.

10. On the afternoon of the 7th instant four Barbadian fishing boats which were out on the leeward side of the island were enveloped in the darkness, and unable to return. Two of them ultimately reached St. Lucia, and one St. Vincent; the crew of the fourth boat, which became disabled, managed to get on board that which reached St. Vincent. The whole of the crews, numbering nine in all, were saved, and have been brought back to Barbados, and I am taking steps for the recovery of the boats.

I have, &c.,
F. M. HODGSON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 104.

REPORT by Professor D'ALBUQUERQUE.

[Printed as Enclosure 2 in No. 83.]

Enclosure 2 in No. 104.

TELEGRAM from the Administrator of St. Vincent, in reply to the Governor's Telegram asking if St. Vincent needed assistance.

May 8, 1902. Thanks for message; reports of damage incomplete at present; thirty deaths as far as is known yet; immediate assistance from without not necessary.

CAMERON.

Enclosure 3 in No. 104.

REPORT by the Harbour Master of Barbados, giving the names of vessels arriving at Barbados during the 8th and 12th May that have reported meeting the "dust" experienced at Barbados.

May 8th—Nor. Steamship "Talisman," from Demerara, reports meeting the dust at 10 p.m. on 7th May, 150 miles south-south-east of Barbados.

May 8th—Schooner "Viola," from Demerara, met the dust at 8 p.m. on 7th, 70 miles south of Barbados.

May 10th—Barquentine "Fanny," from Pernambuco, met dust 250 miles east of Barbados on the 8th.

May 12th—Barque "Jupiter," from Cape Town, met the dust at 2.30 a.m. on the 8th, 830 miles east-south-east from Barbados.

J. K. KIRKHAM,
Harbour Master.

May 15, 1902.

No. 105.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received June 5, 1902.)

[Answered by No. 119.]

St. Vincent, May 17, 1902.

Forwarded and recommended.

R. B. LLEWELYN,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 105.

Administrator DRAYTON (Grenada) to GOVERNOR.

SIR,

Government Office, May 15, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that at a meeting of the Legislative Council to-day the enclosed resolution was unanimously passed, and I beg that Your Excellency will give publicity to it at St. Vincent. By next mail I shall forward a copy to the Governor of Martinique.

2. At the same meeting, acting upon the authority you have given me by telegram, £500 was appropriated from Colonial funds for relief of the sufferers, as follows:—

For relief of the sufferers from the eruption in Martinique, including £100 for the families of the Grenada stevedores who perished thereby on the S.S. Roddam, £250;

For relief of the sufferers in St. Vincent, £250.

3. The grant for St. Vincent I shall hold, with such other funds as may be subscribed by the public, at Your Excellency's disposal; that of £150 for Martinique I propose to remit to the Governor of that island by next mail. The Colonial Bank has agreed to make all remittances on this account free of charge.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD DRAYTON,
Administrator.

His Excellency the Governor,
&c., &c., &c.,
St. Vincent.

RESOLUTION.

"Be it resolved that this Council has learned with the deepest emotion and sorrow of the awful catastrophe which has befallen the sister island of St. Vincent and the French Colony of Martinique, and desires that his Honour the Administrator will communicate to the Governments of those Colonies the expression of the Council's profound and heartfelt sympathy with the sufferers in their distress."

No. 106.

GOVERNOR SIR C. A. MOLONEY (TRINIDAD) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received June 5, 1902.)

[Answered by No. 121.]

(Extract.)

Government House, May 20, 1902.

IN connection with the terrible catastrophe that has overtaken St. Vincent, of the Windward Islands, and the French island of Martinique, I have the honour to report that the first eruptions of the Soufrière at St. Vincent were reported on

the 7th instant, and on the same day I conveyed by telegram the expression of local sympathy, and on the same day received a reply from the Administrator (Mr. Cameron) as follows:—

“Grateful thanks sympathy. Fierce eruption. Island covered ashes. Extent of damage yet unknown.”

2. Later on the same day Mr. Cameron telegraphed to Captain Campbell, of His Majesty's Ship “Indefatigable,” as follows:—

“Telegraphic communication interrupted with St. Lucia. Governor-in-Chief of the Windward Islands went to St. Lucia this morning, instructed me in the event of telegraphic communication interrupted to request you to proceed to St. Lucia at once. Call here en route to convey latest news.”

* * * * *

4. On the evening of the 8th I sailed for Barbados on the week's leave granted by you, leaving Sir C. C. Knollys as Acting Governor.

5. On the 9th no detailed information was received in Trinidad, but the sound of distant explosions was heard, and much anxiety was felt.

6. Early on the morning of the 10th Sir C. C. Knollys sent the following telegram to St. Vincent:—

“Report fully if you want help or if ‘Indefatigable’ is urgently needed.”

About 11 o'clock a.m. news of the disaster at Martinique was received, and Sir C. C. Knollys immediately consulted Captain Campbell and arranged that he should proceed at once to St. Vincent with a deck load of supplies, and that if these were not required at St. Vincent he should proceed to Martinique. Sir C. C. Knollys telegraphed to St. Vincent:—

* * * * *

• 6A. In the meanwhile some of the Trinidad people of French extraction who had relatives in Martinique urged the fitting out of a relief expedition to that island. Sir C. C. Knollys at once sanctioned the departure of the “Kennet,” a local steamer, and gave about two hundred pounds' worth of provisions to be added to private contributions, and also arranged for two medical officers to go in her. The “Kennet” sailed the same evening.

7. Early on the following morning, the 11th, Sir C. C. Knollys sent you the following telegram:—

“‘Indefatigable’ went St. Vincent 10 May, stayed for one hour, then proceeded to St. Lucia, probably for Martinique. ‘Kennet,’ local steamer, started directly for Martinique, 10 May, conveying stores, medical comforts, two medical officers.”

* * * * *

9. The “Kennet” arrived at Fort de France, Martinique, early on Monday, the 12th, and after seeing the Acting Governor and Mayor proceeded to St. Pierre. Finding no assistance possible the party returned to Fort de France and landed the provisions, and then returned to Trinidad, arriving early on Wednesday, the 14th, bringing with them a few French refugees.

10. On the 13th the following telegram was received from the Governor of St. Vincent:—

“The people of St. Vincent desire me to convey to you their deep gratitude for the generous offer of help from Trinidad. Salt fish, corn meal, crackers, rice, flour, very acceptable. 3,000 people in receipt of relief. Distress must last some months.”

11. Further consignments of provisions have since been sent by the Government, the total amounting to the value of £800 to St. Vincent and £200 to Martinique. This is independent of liberal subscriptions raised and spent on behalf of the sufferers from private sources. The editor of “The Mirror” newspaper, for instance, has raised about £700, and a committee of gentlemen has raised considerable sums for the relief

of the French refugees. A large quantity of clothing has also been sent to St. Vincent.

12. To-day I received the following telegram from the Governor of the Windward Islands:—

“Please inform ‘Mirror’ and others that no more provisions are required for the present.”

13. I enclose cuttings* from the local press containing most graphic accounts of both catastrophes.

I have, &c.,

ALFRED MOLONEY,
Governor.

May 22, 1902.

P.S.—I add a copy of a telegram* just received reporting further eruptions at Martinique by which Fort de France is affected as well as St. Pierre, and reporting that refugees are leaving by the thousand. I am informed by the Vice-Consul for France that three hundred are expected here to-morrow.

A. M.

No. 107.

GOVERNOR SIR C. A. MOLONEY (TRINIDAD) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received June 5, 1902.)

SIR,

Government House, May 21, 1902.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 20th instant,† on the subject of the proceedings of this Government in connection with the terrible calamities that have overtaken the British Colony of St. Vincent of the Windward Islands, and the French Island of Martinique, and in confirmation of my telegram of this day's date,* I have the honour to transmit, for communication to the French Government through the Foreign Office, a nominal roll* of the French Refugees who have made this Colony their temporary asylum. I had hoped to have been also able to give their positions and circumstances before the disaster, as well as an estimated assessment of their losses, that in due course they might be submitted for the scrutiny and consideration of the General Committee, which will have been appointed to consider claims and administer the Relief Fund.

2. The number of the unfortunate persons who escaped the disaster at St. Pierre appear to be small and most of them left Martinique as soon as they could get away after its occurrence. The greater number came to Trinidad, some crossed to St. Lucia, and a few went to Guadeloupe. The majority represents the remnants of the old established French Colonists in the true meaning of the word, and were possessed of considerable property in St. Pierre and its neighbourhood, most of which has been completely destroyed; of what was represented by commercial houses in that Town no vestige remains.

3. Whilst one can appreciate the object of their flight and their desire to get away from so distressing a scene, hoping later for a more settled time to return, it is open to question whether they were acting in their own interests in so doing, overlooking the French proverb “*Les absents ont toujours tort.*” Notwithstanding, I earnestly hope that they will not be further losers from their movement, and that they will be allowed to benefit from the world's generosity, so widely put forth for the general relief of the sufferers.

4. Since their advent here, those refugees have been dependent on public charity, and on the generous help of friends and strangers alike, who have shared with them for the time the hospitality of their homes, but the outlook before them is black indeed. Whole families, who have grown up in comfort and ease, are now destitute of almost the bare necessities of life. What are they to do in the future? What is to become of them? Whilst all have lost in a wholesale manner, in some cases where only a few members of a family have been saved they include no bread-winners—widows, girls, and children only remaining.

* Not printed.

† No. 106.

5. Some of them will be glad to have the means of returning to, and the opportunity of re-establishing themselves in their old Colony; others having lost practically "their all," including relations, friends, as well as property, would prefer to remain here, where they have experienced a kind and sympathetic welcome, and where they will have more confidence in their surroundings and prospects, and be more prepared to begin, as it were, life again, and rehabilitate themselves in Martinique, or establish themselves in a British Colony.

6. The sum which has been so far liberally subscribed from all parts for the relief of the sufferers from the Mont Pelée eruption, Martinique, is a large one, and goes on increasing. I would respectively beg to be allowed to plead in time before the French Government the cause of refugees here, that such apportionment may be made in their favour as their circumstances and conditions may justify, so that they may be enabled to lift their now dejected heads, see daylight once more, and move again towards re-establishing themselves wherever they may decide.

7. In closing this despatch I venture to signify to the French nation the universal and heartfelt sympathy of the people of this Colony in connection with the irreparable losses that have fallen upon so many of their Colonists, and may I, at the same time, convey the assurance that everything is being done, and will be done, to alleviate their misfortune, sorrow, and misery, and meet their pressing necessities.

8. In support of the entertainment of such sentiments, the following resolution was unanimously adopted at a public meeting held in this Capital on the 20th instant, and over which I had the honour to preside:—

"This meeting, the first that has taken place since the dreadful occurrences, desires to confirm the telegrams of the Governor conveying the expression of this Colony's heartfelt sympathy with the people of St. Vincent and Martinique in connection with the terrible and overwhelming catastrophes that have befallen them."

I have, &c.,

ALFRED MOLONEY,

Governor.

P.S.—Since writing this despatch I have, through the courtesy of the Honourable C. Leotaud, Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council, and Mr. Fortier, received the additional information,* as per margin, from which it will be observed that money is much needed to meet the most pressing requirements of these poor people, and may I accordingly suggest that with such an object a remittance by cable to the Colonial Bank in this Colony be made from the Relief Fund, Paris, in aid of the sufferers?

A. M.

Mr. Fortier
Mr. Leotaud.
Mr. Leotaud.
Secretary
Relief
Committee

No. 108.

GOVERNOR SIR J. A. SWETTENHAM (BRITISH GUIANA) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received June 5, 1902.)

[Answered by No. 136.]

SIR, Government House, Georgetown, Demerara, May 21, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that on the receipt on the 10th instant of the news of the disasters to St. Vincent and Martinique the Mayor of Georgetown waited upon me with a request that the Combined Court might be asked to vote a grant in aid of the distressed, a proposal to which I expressed myself unwilling to accede, and I proposed a public subscription instead, which was at once started; soon after I was approached through the Government Secretary by Mr. Dargan, the Senior Member for Georgetown, with a similar proposal. I consulted the Executive Council on that gentleman's requisition, and was advised that there would appear to that body no objection to proposing a vote for the consideration of the Combined Court, provided it were made clear to the Court that the Government could only take a vote on the understanding that a sufficient addition was made to the year's revenue by taxation to cover the aid granted.

2. I prepared, for the information of the Court, a Minute, of which I annex a copy, with the intention of asking the members of the Court of Policy, whom I was to meet the next day, when it would be most convenient to consider the matter.

3. At the Court of Policy, I was presented by a requisition, signed by most of the unofficial members present, inviting me to make an immediate remittance to the Governor of Barbados, to enable him to send the promptest aid. On that requisition, I telegraphed a sum of \$10,000 to Sir F. Hodgson, and on the following day had the gratification to receive his telegram (annexed) showing that he had been able **within** 24 hours to render the desired help.

4. On the 16th instant, the Combined Court specially called together for the purpose voted the \$10,000, and the ways and means to cover that sum. I enclose copies of the Bills* passed, and of the debate* in the Court. The usual authenticated copies of the Ordinances and the Attorney-General's reports thereon will be transmitted in the usual course.

5. I may take the opportunity of adding that on the 15th instant I presided over a public meeting, convened by the Mayor at the Town Hall, to arrange for the collection of further subscriptions and the despatch of further aid from private sources.

6. The vote has been divided equally between Martinique and St. Vincent.

7. My own view is that corporations have no business to make such grants as this one; but as there is strong popular representation in the Combined Court, and such votes have been customary here (St. Vincent was relieved from this Colony in 1812) and there was a very strong public feeling in favour of public money being voted, I decided that *if that feeling was strong enough to induce members to vote the additional taxation required*, a vote might be proposed, but not otherwise.

I have, &c.,

J. A. SWETTENHAM.

Enclosure 1 in No. 108.

MINUTE by His Excellency the Governor on the subject of a Vote of the Combined Court being taken for the Relief of the Sufferers from the recent catastrophe in Martinique and St. Vincent.

The terrible catastrophe which has overtaken the Colonies of Martinique and St. Vincent, the awful destruction of life and property in those islands, and the assistance which the survivors may need in their distress, have been under the consideration of the Governor in Council.

A public subscription has been started and it has been suggested that it would be proper for the Government to afford to the Members of the Combined Court an early opportunity of expressing their views on the question whether any public measure of relief should be added to private benevolence.

In consideration of the large floating debt of this Colony, the high rate of present taxation and the fact that the Combined Court were recently obliged, entirely for reasons of economy, to forego all expenditure of public money on a matter of such imperial and local interest as His Majesty's Coronation, the Governor felt and still feels very reluctant to propose any further expenditure to the Combined Court, but it has been represented to him that under the constitution the only way of allowing the representatives of the people to express their views will be to call them together, and lay the matter before them; and as he has been specially invited to do so by the senior elected member for Georgetown, His Excellency feels it his duty to invite an expression of opinion from the Combined Court on the subject.

With regard to the urgent need which exists for economy in the public administration, the Governor feels strongly that a vote can be asked from the Combined Court only on the distinct understanding that extra taxation will be imposed to the extent of such vote.

The form of resolution to be proposed in the Combined Court would be (subject of course to amendment hereafter):—

* Not reprinted

"That this Court expresses its sincere sympathy with the sufferers from the recent catastrophe in Martinique and Saint Vincent, and requests the Government to expend \$10,000 in providing relief, pledging itself to provide additional taxation to that extent."

Enclosure 2 in No. 108.

REQUISITION.

We, the undersigned elective members of the Combined Court, pledge ourselves to provide a sum of \$10,000 for the relief of the sufferers at St. Vincent and Martinique, this money to be at once wired to His Excellency the Governor of Barbados, with the request that the money be expended at his discretion on provisions and clothing for their relief.

BASSELL WINTER.
R. G. DUNCAN.
A. B. BROWN.
CLEMENT P. GASKIN.
PATRICK DARGAN.
H. H. LAURENCE.
G. GARNETT.

May 14, 1902.

Enclosure 3 in No. 108.

GOVERNOR OF BARBADOS to GOVERNOR OF BRITISH GUIANA.

TELEGRAM.

May 15, 1902. Received your telegram of 14 May. Some supplies for St. Vincent on behalf of Government of British Guiana leave by His Majesty's Ship "Indefatigable," this evening; all supplies for Martinique leave by "Indefatigable" 17 May. Accounts of expenditure will be sent as soon as possible.

Enclosure 4 in No. 108.

RESOLUTION NO. XVIII.

Be it Resolved,—"That this Court expresses its sincere sympathy with the sufferers from the recent catastrophe in Martinique and Saint Vincent, and requests the Government to expend \$10,000 in providing relief, pledging itself to provide additional taxation to that extent."

Passed in Combined Court this 16th day of May, 1902.

J. DRYSDALE,
Acting Clerk of the Court.

No. 109.

ADMINISTRATOR BELL (DOMINICA) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received June 5, 1902.)

[*Answered by No. 120.*]

SIR,

Government House, Dominica, May 21, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to confirm my telegram of the 9th instant,* as follows:—

"Terrible eruption Martinique volcano. Great distress. With approval Executive Council (am) sending immediately £100 value (of) provisions. All safe here."

2. On the 11th instant I received your telegram,* as follows:—

“Your telegram received. Vote approved. Telegraph any further information received.”

3. I beg to report that at a meeting of the Legislature held yesterday, the vote was passed unanimously, and I am happy to state that the gift of the Government was considerably augmented by private donations of food and money.

4. The Acting Governor of Martinique has expressed his sincere thanks for the sympathy and liberality shown in this island.

I have, &c.,

H. HESKETH BELL,

Administrator.

No. 110.

ADMINISTRATOR BELL (DOMINICA) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received June 5, 1902.)

[Answered by No. 120.]

SIR,

Government House, Dominica, May 21, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that much sympathy is felt in this island for the acute distress that is now being felt in St. Vincent, and that at a meeting of the Legislative Council, held yesterday, a vote of £50 was unanimously passed as a contribution from this island.

2. In view of the urgency of the matter, I have, to-day, despatched to the Administrator of St. Vincent a draft for the amount, and I trust that my action will meet with your approval.

3. I am happy to add that an appeal for private subscriptions is meeting with generous responses, and I hope shortly to be able to transmit to St. Vincent a handsome sum, in addition to the grant by the Legislature.

I have, &c.,

H. HESKETH BELL,

Administrator.

No. 111.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received June 5, 1902.)

St. Vincent, May 22, 1902.

Forwarded.

R. B. LLEWELYN,

Governor.

Enclosure in No. 111.

Administrator HAY (Saint Lucia) to GOVERNOR.

SIR,

Government House, May 15, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for transmission to the Secretary of State, a copy of a letter addressed to me by the United States Consular Agent in this Colony, conveying an intimation from the United States Consul at Guadeloupe, who is now at Martinique, of his readiness to protect, in the absence of any representative of His Majesty's Government, British vessels, interests and citizens at the latter place.

2. I enclose a copy of the reply which I have sent to the United States Consular Agent here.

I have, &c.,
J. R. M. DALRYMPLE HAY,
Lieutenant-Colonel,
Administrator.

Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn, K.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.,
St. Vincent.

UNITED STATES CONSULAR AGENT to ADMINISTRATOR.

SIR,

St. Lucia, May 15, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have received a communication from the United States Consul at Guadeloupe, who writes from Fort-de-France, Martinique, as follows:—

"The United States Consul and Vice-Consul here having lost their lives in the disaster of May 8th, and the Consulate having been completely destroyed, I am here by order of the Department.

"You will oblige me if you will inform the authorities at your port that in the absence of any representative of His Majesty's Government, I have notified the Governor here that I will represent and protect British vessels, interests and citizens."

I have, &c.,
WM. PETER,
Consular Agent.

His Honour

Lieutenant-Colonel Dalrymple Hay, D.S.O.,
Administrator.

ADMINISTRATOR to UNITED STATES CONSULAR AGENT.

SIR,

Government Office, May 15, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, which is being communicated to His Excellency the Governor of the Windward Islands, and to request that you will be good enough to convey to the United States Consul at Guadeloupe, who is now at Martinique, the thanks of this Government for the ready manner in which he has undertaken to protect British interests at the latter place in the absence of any representative of His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.,
J. R. M. DALRYMPLE HAY,
Lieutenant-Colonel,
Administrator.

The United States Consular Agent,
St. Lucia.

No. 112.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received June 5, 1902.)

[Answered by No. 124.]

Saint Vincent, May 22, 1902.

Forwarded and suggestion recommended. These sufferers belong to a better class than the labouring population, being widows, &c., of shop-keepers or merchants.

2. There are in Saint Vincent proprietors of estates and small properties and shopkeepers, overseers, &c., who have similarly suffered. I am afraid they too, in this terrible calamity, will have to be helped as far as funds will permit.

R. B. LLEWELYN,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 112.

Administrator HAY (St. Lucia) to GOVERNOR.

(Extract.)

SIR,

Government House, May 20, 1902.

YOUR Excellency is doubtless aware that a few days before the terrible disaster in Martinique several families of European blood, connected with Saint Lucia by ties of marriage, took shelter in this Colony, and thus escaped the dreadful fate which overtook the inhabitants of St. Pierre.

2. But while their lives have, by a merciful Providence, been spared, husbands, fathers and possessions have perished.

3. Mr. Joseph Plissonneau, who was on board of the steamship "Roddam" in the Bay of St. Pierre on the morning of the 8th of May, and who, with a part of the crew of that vessel, was almost miraculously saved and conveyed to Saint Lucia, has since succumbed from the injuries which he received at the time.

4. It is heartrending to think that the refugees, mostly all of whom are young mothers with children of tender years, and who only a few short weeks ago were living in comparative luxury and in well appointed homes in St. Pierre, are now reduced to poverty, living on the charity of friends and having to submit to serious hardships and privations in addition to moral suffering, the burden of which it is difficult to realize.

5. Their condition is deserving of the utmost sympathy, and they are, I consider, worthy objects of that benevolence which is taking practical shape in the Mansion House Fund, the contributions to which have been so generously headed by His Majesty the King. Many of the refugees are British subjects, and the immediate descendants of British subjects who had settled in Martinique.

6. I venture, therefore, to suggest that the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies be moved to use his influence with the view of directing that a portion of the Mansion House Fund intended for the Martinique sufferers be placed in the hands of the Administrator of Saint Lucia and the Executive Council, to relieve those who have suffered by the Martinique disaster, and who have sought the friendly shelter of the shores and Government of this Colony.

* * * * *

8. Besides the sufferers referred to in the list,* which I append hereto, many Saint Lucians who were visiting Martinique at the time of the catastrophe have shared the fate of the inhabitants of St. Pierre.

9. I would ask Your Excellency to be good enough to forward this despatch to the Secretary of State by the earliest opportunity.

I have, &c.,

J. R. M. DALRYMPLE HAY,

Lieutenant-Colonel,

Administrator.

His Excellency

Sir Robert B. Llewelyn, K.C.M.G.,

&c., &c., &c.,

Saint Vincent.

No. 113.

GOVERNOR SIR. R. B. LLEWELYN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received June 5, 1902.)

[Answered by No. 123.]

SIR,

St. Vincent, May 23, 1902.

It is with the deepest regret and concern that I have to report the very serious loss of life and damage to property in the Colony of St. Vincent, from the eruption of the volcano known as the Soufrière, at the northern end of the island.

2. Previous eruptions of this volcano are known to have occurred in 1718 and 1812, but, as it had been dormant for 90 years, its danger was forgotten.

3. For the past month or two, I am informed that rumblings have been heard in the vicinity of the mountain, but they were generally attributed to be slight shocks of earthquake.

4. The only road across the island passes over the Soufrière, and connects the towns of Chateaubelair on the leeward coast with Georgetown on the windward side of the island, and several persons, including women and children, crossed daily to and fro, carrying fish caught on the leeward side for sale in Georgetown.

5. The first intimation I had of anything unusual was reported to me from Georgetown Police Station, where a girl had arrived, and stated that the water in the Soufrière pond was boiling up. At that time nothing unusual could be observed from Georgetown in the appearance of the mountain, but at 3 p.m. on the 6th instant the police stationed at Chateaubelair reported that a cloud of steam had burst out from the top of the crater, and later on in the day it was reported that people were beginning to arrive in the town from the villages a little further north, at the base of the Soufrière. The warning thus taken saved the lives of nearly all the people on that side of the island.

6. At Georgetown and what is known as the "Carib Country" on the windward side, no signs of anything unusual occurred, and the people there did not realize any danger until about midday on the 7th, when the volcano was in full eruption.

7. The sugar works were busy finishing up the crop, and the people were all at work, when suddenly the atmosphere became dark; sand and stones began to fall and the air was full of electricity.

8. It is believed that at least 1,600 persons lost their lives between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. on the estates belonging to Mr. Alexander Porter, situated within seven miles of Georgetown.

9. The experience of the survivors and the injured is indescribable, and, owing to the alarming condition of the volcano, nobody could possibly venture near the scene until 24 hours had elapsed.

10. Telephonic communication with Kingstown was interrupted, and no information could be obtained about the villages of Sandy Bay, Owia and Fancy, north of the village of Overland, at which latter place it was ascertained that nearly all the inhabitants had perished.

11. Panic naturally existed, and it was not until Saturday that any persons could be found willing to go out and bury the dead. On my return from St. Lucia on Sunday night, I was shocked to hear that over 800 bodies had been found and buried, and that there were 178 persons terribly injured by burns in temporary hospitals in Georgetown.

12. Up to that time the gravity of the disaster had not presented itself to the Administrator, but from the 12th May it became known and apparent to all that the results of the eruption of the volcano on the 7th May were most appalling, and would not be overcome for many years.

13. Every effort has since been made to relieve the sufferings of the injured, and give relief with food and clothing to those who had lost their all.

14. The Governors of all the neighbouring Colonies, the Officer Commanding the Troops at Barbados, the Commodore at Jamaica, and the Captains of His Majesty's Ships "Indefatigable" and "Pallas," sent to my assistance, have rendered me all the help possible, and with that the first shock has been overcome.

15. It has been a terrible experience for this small island, not yet recovered from the effects of the hurricane in 1898, to be again smitten, and this time with a heavier blow. A hurricane lasts a few hours, and then it is over. A volcanic eruption may continue for years. In this instance it has now been active for 16 or 17 days, and still continues.

16. On Sunday night, the 17th, it suddenly broke out very fiercely, and caused some little panic in places where the people were beginning to hope it was over. Numbers of additional refugees flocked into the towns, and I believe over seven thousand persons had to be fed on Monday and the following days. This increases the difficulty of efficiently administering relief, when panics have to be combated with.

17. Until the volcano becomes more settled, any statistics as to the damage done to the Colony and the future prospects can only be approximate estimates and speculation.

Shewing Area devastated by Volcanic Eruption

Country North of + + + + + devastated
by eruption with the exception of the small
portion North of = = = = =

Estimated Population of Devastated Area

Richmond	400
Walliba	250
Praters	230
Morne Ronde	200
Windsor Forest	12
Baleine	10
Campobello	30
Fancy	190
Gramacco	30
Onia	350
Sandy Bay	230
God Save the King	30
Overland	500
Turema	400
Orange Hill	400
Lot M.	320
Waterloo	300
Rabacca	300
Langley Park	200



Scale

Mile 1 4 8 12 16 20 24 28 32 36 40 44 48 52 56 60 64 68 72 76 80 84 88 92 96 100 Miles

Reduced from Admiralty Chart

18. I attach a small map, showing the area "devastated completely," by which I mean entirely covered with dust, ashes, lava, &c., on which every tree is killed, all herbage buried, and about which it is impossible now to say whether the land will ever be cultivable again. It is a sad picture, the best sugar estates and the most fertile part of the island now turned into a heap of ashes, with not a living creature on it.

19. It is pretty certain that no sugar can be obtained from the estates thus buried until 1905, under the most favourable circumstances, and to get it will require an expenditure of £20,000 to repair buildings and restock with animals. Whether the proprietor will embark in such a speculation I cannot say, but with the loss of half of his labourers, and the scare that the survivors have received, I fear there will be many difficulties to surmount beyond the expenditure of capital.

20. I estimate the actual loss in the devastated area at £50,000; the prospective loss it is impossible to estimate. The general loss on the island outside the devastated area is considerable, as dust and ashes fell in varying quantities everywhere, so that ground products and grass for fodder have suffered to a considerable extent, causing the death of animals or the necessity of shipping them at great loss to the owners. Breadfruit and other fruits, even in Kingstown, are dropping from the trees as if blighted.

21. The total number of bodies found dead is ...	...	...	1,295
The deaths in hospital from injuries (burns) ...	...	...	70
Missing ...	...	...	200
Total ...			1,565

22. To-day there are 100 cases left in hospital, and it is hoped that about 80 will be spared, though I fear many will be maimed for life.

23. Seven thousand persons are on the relief list, drawing a ration, copy attached, which costs about 3d. a day. I hope, however, if there are no further violent outbursts of the volcano, that I shall be able to persuade many of these to return to their homes shortly. At present it is alleged that the growing crops in the ground, for a large area outside the line of devastation, have been damaged, and if so there will be a much larger number of persons without food for many months.

24. I attach a return, showing the names of the properties devastated, with the names of the owners and acreage. The land tax should, I submit, be remitted on all these properties for this year. *

25. I can only briefly to-day inform you that I am endeavouring to settle the people, who lived in the devastated area, with spots of land and houses elsewhere on acquired estates, and I may have to acquire further properties, out of Relief Fund money.

26. I have made a start by placing the people from Fraser's, about 35 families, on Clare Valley, which has recently been acquired. The people are now clearing the site for the village. Lumber and building materials are to be sent on Monday, and two non-commissioned officers from the Royal Engineers will superintend the laying out of the village and temporarily reside on the spot.

27. Other villages will be dealt with similarly, and I have ordered from the United States of America, through Lord Pauncefoot, and from Canada, through Lord Minto, sufficient timber to build 500 houses. No assistance will be given to any one who may wish to return to the devastated area, for it is impossible to foretell how long the volcano may remain dormant after the present eruption ceases.

28. I propose asking the leading merchants and proprietors to meet me as soon as this mail leaves, and to go thoroughly into the questions of temporary relief, relief works, and settlement of those dispossessed.

29. Up to the present my time has been fully occupied in making preliminary arrangements for relief and clothing, but as that is now fairly arranged I shall have a little more time to report on the future prospects by next mail.

I have, &c.,

R. B. LLEWELYN,
Governor.

Enclosure 2 in No. 113.
DAILY SCALE OF RATIONS.

Men.	Women.	Children.
Fish, 8 ozs.	Fish, 6 ozs.	Three-fourths or one-half of the men's rations ac- cording to size.
Biscuits, 12 ozs. or ...	Biscuits, 10 ozs. or ...	
Flour, 8 ozs. or	Flour, 6 ozs. or	
Cornmeal, 8 ozs. or ...	Cornmeal, 6 ozs. or ...	
Rice, 8 ozs.	Rice, 6 ozs.	
Sugar, 1½ ozs.	Sugar, 1½ ozs.	Sugar, 1½ ozs.

Enclosure 3 in No. 113.

RETURN of acreage, according to Land Roll of Estates, irrespective of Allotments of 10 acres and under, devastated by the Soufrière Eruption, and amount of Land Tax thereon.

Name of Estate.	No. of District.	Name of Owner.	Acreage.	Amount of Land Tax.
Wallibou	2	George Robertson ...	635	£ s. d. 31 15 0
Richmond	2	Alex. Porter	830	41 10 0
Frasers	2	Chas. W. Grant	25	0 18 9
Petit Wallibou	2	C. J. Simmons	68½	3 8 6
Windsor Forest	2	Hon. D. A. Macdonald ..	200	10 0 0
Balaine	2	Chas. Roberts	20	0 10 0
Tourama	2	Alex. Porter	800	40 0 0
Orange Hill	2	„ „	739	36 19 0
Waterloo	2	„ „	754	37 14 0
Lot 14	2	„ „	500	25 0 0
Rabacca	2	„ „	610	30 10 0
Langley Park	2	„ „	600	30 0 0
Mt. Bentineck	2	„ „	760	38 0 0
Fancy	2	C. J. Simmons	290	14 10 0
Cramacou	2	„ „	105	5 5 0
Owia	2	J. Littledale and others	612½	30 12 6
		Totals ... £	7,549	376 12 9

May 23, 1902.

E. J. C.

No. 114.

COLONIAL OFFICE to the HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA.

(Extract.)

Downing Street, June 5, 1902.

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the Canadian grant for the relief of the sufferers from the volcanic eruption in St. Vincent, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to inform you that he has received a telegram from the Governor-General stating that the sum of \$25,000 has been placed to the credit of the Governor of the Windward Islands at the Colonial Bank.

Mr. Chamberlain is very sensible of the ready generosity of the Dominion Government in making this grant.

No. 115.

GOVERNOR SIR D. WILSON (BRITISH HONDURAS) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received June 6, 1902.)

SIR,

Government House, Belize, May 22, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on the receipt by mail of the news (through the United States press up to the 15th instant) respecting the calamity which has befallen the Colony of St. Vincent by the eruption of the Soufrière volcano, I placed before the Legislative Council the Minute of which I annex a copy, and the sum of \$500 was unanimously voted towards the relief of the sufferers. I have further caused the District Boards to be invited to open subscription lists with the same object.

2. I am sending by the outgoing mail the following telegram* to you, to be despatched from New Orleans:—

“May 23. \$500 voted by Legislative Council for relief St. Vincent. Request Crown Agents to be instructed arrange accordingly.”

3. The members of Council seemed not unwilling to vote an increased amount should it be found on the receipt of fuller particulars that additional help is urgently needed, and the opinion was expressed that possibly the most suitable form of relief would be to arrange with the large owners of property to provide in this Colony house accommodation and work for a number of families and that the Government should, if desired, allot to them Crown lands on which they could settle permanently after a time. Should it be in contemplation to provide for any of the inhabitants of St. Vincent by emigration I would suggest, for your consideration, that this Colony could by degrees absorb a large number of emigrants, if of good character and industrious, provided they were accustomed to agricultural labour.

4. I enclose, for your information, a transcript of the few words which I addressed to the Legislative Council with reference to this sad calamity, and also with reference to the death of the late Treasurer, which took place since the previous meeting of the Council.

I have, &c.,

D. WILSON,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 115.

MINUTE.

No. 14 of 1902.

The Governor begs to refer to the recent dreadful calamity which has befallen our sister Colony of St. Vincent, and has the honour to request the Legislative Council

to be so good as to vote the sum of \$500 towards the relief of the unfortunate sufferers in that island, as an expression of our deep sympathy for them.

D. WILSON,
Governor.

Government House, May 21, 1902.

Enclosure 2 in No. 115.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

Honourable members will have learned from the telegraphic reports which are published in the United States newspapers received by this mail of the terrible calamity which has befallen our fellow Colonists in the island of St. Vincent.

Following shortly after a similar catastrophe in the French Colony of Martinique, where the whole town of St. Pierre, with its 25,000 inhabitants, as well as villages and people of surrounding districts, were in a few moments swept out of existence, a violent eruption of the Soufrière volcano at St. Vincent took place on the 9th instant, which has devastated the whole northern portion of that island—whole villages and districts having been buried in burning lava and ashes. The loss of life—the full extent of which is yet unknown—has been appalling. Two thousand deaths are already reported.

Great misery and want undoubtedly prevail among the survivors, and although prompt aid is being given by the Colonies nearer to the scene of this dreadful calamity, I feel sure that the people of British Honduras will wish, as promptly as circumstances will permit, to join in giving succour.

You will therefore to-day be invited to vote a sum of money for that purpose, in order that the Governor of the Windward Islands may be informed by telegram by the outgoing mail of the help we are sending, and the Crown Agents instructed to arrange for making the payment at once.

It is proposed to request the several District Boards of the Colony to take immediate steps to collect private subscriptions for a further remittance.

No. 116.

FOREIGN OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received June 10, 1902.)

[*Answered by No. 131.*]

SIR,

Foreign Office, June 9, 1902.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the accompanying copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Porto Rico, relative to relief stores for Martinique and St. Vincent.

I am, &c.,
F. H. VILLIERS.

Enclosure in No. 116.

Consul CHURCHWARD to the MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE.

MY LORD,

British Consulate, Porto Rico, May 14, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of Your Lordship, that yesterday evening the United States Navy Collier "Sterling" left San Juan with a cargo of provisions, tents, clothing and other necessities for the relief of the distressed inhabitants of Martinique and St. Vincent.

The expedition was specially entrusted to the conduct of Commander G. W. Mentz, of the United States Navy, who, I am informed, is instructed by his governing authorities to express to those of the islands in question the deep sympathies of both the United States and Porto Rico in their distress, and to place his services at the disposal of either of the islands that might require them.

The transport was placed at the disposal of Porto Rico by the United States Navy Department, and the stores were supplied by the Army and Navy Depôts of this place, as well as by general subscription of the citizens of San Juan and neighbourhood.

Other consignments are in course of organization, provided by private subscription, and will be on the way as opportunity occurs.

In conclusion, I would beg Your Lordship's permission to add, that at the request of the Porto Rican Authorities I am sitting on the Committee of Organization, and that, at its desire, in view of the fact that the help was to be for both the islands, I caused a collection which was being made amongst the British here for the distress at St. Vincent to be merged into the general relief fund of the island.

I have, &c.,

W. B. CHURCHWARD,

His Majesty's Consul.

His Majesty's
Principal Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs.

No. 117.

ADMIRALTY to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received June 13, 1902.)

SIR,

Admiralty, June 10, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter dated the 18th ultimo,* from the Officer Commanding His Majesty's Ship "Indefatigable," containing a report on the recent volcanic eruptions in the West Indies. A similar letter has been sent to the Foreign Office.

I am, &c.,

EVAN MACGREGOR.

Enclosure in No. 117.

Report on Affairs at St. Vincent.

(Extract.)

His Majesty's Ship "Indefatigable," at Barbados, May 17, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward you the following report in connection with the eruption of the Soufrière at St. Vincent. About 5th May, whilst at Trinidad, we heard that both the Soufrière at St. Vincent and Martinique were showing signs of activity. On 6th May we heard by telegram that M. Guerin's Usine in Martinique had been destroyed by an eruption, and that shocks had been felt at St. Vincent. On Wednesday, 7th May, during the afternoon, it was reported that the Soufrière at St. Vincent was in full eruption. In Trinidad during the afternoon explosions were heard to the north, as of guns of a ship at target practice. About 5 p.m. the following telegram was received from the Administrator, St. Vincent:—"Telegraphic communication interrupted with St. Lucia. Governor-in-Chief, Windward Islands, went St. Lucia this morning; instructed me in case of telegraphic communication being interrupted to ask you proceed St. Lucia at once, call here en route to convey latest news." No further official telegrams were received before we sailed. This telegram I showed to the Governor at Trinidad, who requested me to remain there, pointing out that the Governor of the Windward Islands had two steamers at St. Lucia, by which he could return more quickly than by waiting for us; that the news from St. Vincent was not serious as regarded loss of life or property, and that we were in direct telegraphic communication with St. Vincent.

* * * * *

On Thursday, 8th May, a thick haze was observed all over the island and roadstead and a light dust fell on the ship and shore. The Governor of Trinidad sailed about 7 p.m. for Barbados, and arranged to telegraph for me to St. Vincent, if necessary.

On Friday, 9th May, the news from St. Vincent was not good, so a telegram was sent to the Administrator asking if assistance was required, but no answer was received before we left. On Saturday, 10th May, telegraphic information was received of the disaster at St. Pierre, Martinique; also that the number of deaths at St. Vincent was put down at, I think, 100.

On receipt of this news, Sir Courtenay Knollys, the Acting Governor, made arrangements to send on board the "Indefatigable" 200 barrels of flour, 100 bags of rice, and 20 tierces of codfish. Whilst this was being stowed, your telegrams arrived, and when all was embarked, I proceeded for St. Lucia, calling in at St. Vincent, as I thought the Governor might by this time have arrived. Finding the Governor was still at St. Lucia, I proceeded direct for that place, where I arrived at 11.30 a.m. From St. Lucia I sent a telegram to you with the latest information given me by the Administrator of St. Vincent, whom I saw in passing. At 1 p.m. on 11th May I sailed from St. Lucia with the Governor of the Windward Islands on board.

Arriving at 4 p.m. off the north end of St. Vincent I communicated with Fancy and Owia Bay, at which settlements I found some Caribs and negroes. At both places provisions were landed, as they reported that they were getting a little short, and for four days had not been able to communicate with Georgetown, in consequence of a lava stream. At Fancy 40 deaths had taken place; communication with Georgetown had been made that day for the first time. All the country round was under ashes. From Owia I proceeded direct to Kingstown, where we arrived at 8 p.m.

On Monday, 12th May, all provisions were landed and some shipped away in sloops and in the Royal Mail Island Steamers, which had been sent down from St. Lucia to the different villages round the coast. Information kept coming in, showing that the number of deaths were many more than were at first estimated, and 1,600, the number telegraphed to you, were reported; the wounded, who were practically all at Georgetown, being estimated at 200.

On Tuesday, 13th May, I proceeded with Major Will and four Royal Army Medical Corps men, who arrived from Barbados in Royal Mail Steamer, to Georgetown, to try and remove wounded to Kingstown, but found this was impossible in consequence of the surf at the end of the pier, so arrangements were then made for the wounded to come in by carts. There were two doctors and one nurse at Georgetown, but everything was very rough. I returned to Kingstown that evening.

On Wednesday, 14th May, the United States Steamer "Potomac" arrived with a small quantity of provisions, which, with the concurrence of the Governor, were taken back to Martinique, the captain of the "Potomac" being of opinion they were more urgently required at that island, since there seemed to be no immediate lack of provisions at St. Vincent.

The large hospital tent was put up and the wounded began to arrive. At 11 p.m. on the same day I weighed and proceeded to Barbados for marquee tents, two doctors and medical stores.

On Thursday, 15th May, on arrival at Barbados, the shipping of stores telegraphed for was immediately commenced, together with a large quantity of provisions and clothing collected at Barbados by the people and garrison. The ship sailed at 8.30 p.m.

I arrived at St. Vincent at 6 a.m. on 16th May, and discharged stores and provisions. At 8.35 a.m. the "Pallas" arrived with provisions and medical stores. As she required three days to put her engines to rights, half of her stores—not a large quantity—were landed, and the remainder embarked on board the "Indefatigable." I then proceeded for Martinique via Barbados, where I knew there were provisions to the value of £1,000 awaiting passage to Martinique, a gift from British Guiana.

On Saturday, 17th May, the ship arrived at Barbados at 5 a.m., received on board a large quantity of provisions—as much as could be stowed—and at 5 p.m. sailed for Martinique, sending a boat with telegram to St. Lucia in passing.

The following is a general description of observations made. On the passage to St. Lucia on Sunday, 11th instant, when passing to leeward of St. Vincent, the island as far as Chateaubelair did not seem much the worse, but from there to the north end, as far as could be seen through the dense smoke and ashes through which we had to pass, the island is completely covered with ashes, numerous streams of lava

and mud, valleys being filled up and the streams in numerous cases falling over the cliff into the sea.

Luckily all the inhabitants on this side of the island were removed in time, and very few, if any, deaths have taken place; I have only heard of two. The houses, goods and property of all those living north of Chateaubelair are lost to them, and they will require relief.

On return from St. Lucia, as I have already mentioned, we looked in at Fancy and Owia Bay. Both places have a regular coating of ashes over them; since our visit all the people have been brought in to Kingstown and the stock saved driven in, as there is no means of livelihood or food, and to send it out from Kingstown would not always be possible, on account of the surf.

Practically from Owia Bay, or the next village to it, as far as Georgetown, there is complete destruction of everything, sugar estates, factories, and cattle, if not under lava and mud, under a coating of ashes and stones nearly two foot deep. Nearly everyone in the district was wiped out; all the deaths, 1,400 to 1,500, took place in this neighbourhood, all the 180 wounded are from here, and all the live stock killed.

In Georgetown itself there was no loss of life, but the whole town has about six inches of ashes over it, and most of the windows are broken. From Georgetown on, the ashes get less and less, and practically there is no damage done to the south of it.

As regards the food supply I am informed that with the foodstuffs from Trinidad and Barbados it is calculated that there is enough to give the necessary relief for about 16 days. Barbados has a sum of money, £1,000, a gift from British Guiana, which St. Vincent may call on as required, also a sum of about £600 to £700, a gift from the Government and people of Barbados. Quantities of clothing have also been sent to St. Vincent. At the present time there are 3,000 to 3,500 under relief, which number, I think, will increase rather than diminish, as there will be no work for a large number of people in Georgetown itself. Most of the people under relief at the present time are from the west and north side.

As far as I can gather, the people on the east or windward side had no idea an eruption was threatening when the crash came.

I have, &c.,
F. L. CAMPBELL,
Captain and Senior Naval Officer,
Barbados.

The Secretary,
Admiralty.

No. 118.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR F. M. HODGSON (BARBADOS).

SIR,

Downing Street, June 10, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 17th ultimo,* furnishing further particulars of the destruction of St. Pierre, and enclosing reports by Mr. Newton and Dr. Manning on their visit to Martinique.

2. I have read these accounts with great interest, and I am forwarding copies of your despatch and its enclosures to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, for communication to the French Government. It is a source of gratification to me that Barbados was able to render such valuable assistance to the distressed inhabitants of Martinique.

3. I am bringing to the notice of the Directors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company the good service which was done by Captain Owen, in placing the Royal Mail Steamship "Solent" at your disposal; and I am communicating to the Secretary of State for War your testimony to the ready help given by Colonel Booth, Lieutenant-Colonel Roche, and Majors Will and Bent. I have also read with pleasure your commendation of the energy and ability of the Colonial Secretary.

4. With reference to paragraph 14 of your despatch, I may inform you that I have telegraphed* to the Governor of the Windward Islands to reserve a small amount of the Mansion House Fund for the benefit of any British subjects who may be among the sufferers, or the families of the sufferers, from the Martinique disaster. The Legislative Council of Grenada has voted £100 for the families of the stevedores who perished on the "Roddam."

I have, &c.,
J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 119.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN.

SIR,

Downing Street, June 10, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 17th ultimo,† with one from Mr. Drayton, submitting for approval two votes of the Legislative Council of Grenada for £250 each for the relief of the sufferers from the recent volcanic eruptions in St. Vincent and Martinique.

2. I approve of these votes, and I am communicating a copy of Mr. Drayton's despatch to the Marquess of Lansdowne for communication, if his Lordship sees no objection, to the French Government.

I have, &c.,
J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 120.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to ADMINISTRATOR BELL (DOMINICA).

SIR,

Downing Street, June 10, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches of the 21st ultimo,‡ on the subject of the steps taken by Dominica to assist the sufferers from the volcanic eruptions in St. Vincent and Martinique.

2. I have already intimated my approval of the vote of £100 for Martinique, and I now have pleasure in approving the vote of £50 for St. Vincent, and in expressing my appreciation of the practical sympathy shown by Dominica.

I have, &c.,
J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 121.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR C. A. MOLONEY (TRINIDAD).

SIR,

Downing Street, June 10, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 20th ultimo,§ embodying the telegraphic messages which have passed between Trinidad and St. Vincent, and reporting the measures of relief adopted in connection with the volcanic eruptions in St. Vincent and Martinique.

2. I note with appreciation the generosity that has been shown, both by the Government and the people of Trinidad, in providing for the wants of the sufferers by the disaster.

I have, &c.,
J. CHAMBERLAIN.

* Not printed : see No. 124.

† No. 105.

‡ Nos. 109 and 110.

§ No. 106.

No. 122.

COLONIAL OFFICE to FOREIGN OFFICE.

SIR,

Downing Street, June 10, 1902.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne, the accompanying copy of a despatch* from the Governor of the Windward Islands, covering a despatch from the Administrator of St. Lucia, conveying an intimation from the United States Consul at Guadeloupe, who is now at Martinique, of his readiness to protect, in the absence of any representative of His Majesty's Government, British interests at the latter place.

2. Lord Lansdowne will probably agree with Mr. Chamberlain that the thanks of His Majesty's Government should be conveyed to the United States Government and their Consul at Guadeloupe, for the latter's friendly action.

I am, &c.,

C. P. LUCAS.

No. 123.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN.

SIR,

Downing Street, June 11, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 23rd ultimo,† reporting as to the loss of life and damage to property caused by the recent eruption of the Soufrière, and as to the measures adopted for the relief of the distress.

2. I agree to the remission of land tax for one year on the estates enumerated in Mr. Caméron's Minute.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 124.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN.

SIR,

Downing Street, June 11, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 22nd ultimo,‡ with one from the acting Administrator of St. Lucia, in which he appeals for assistance for the refugees who have arrived in St. Lucia from Martinique.

2. Lieutenant-Colonel Dalrymple Hay suggests that "a portion of the Mansion House Fund intended for the Martinique sufferers" should be devoted to their relief. In so writing he would appear to have been under a misapprehension, as the appeal which the Lord Mayor issued was made on behalf of St. Vincent only. I am, however, of opinion, that in so far as these refugees are British subjects, but not otherwise, their needs may not improperly be relieved out of the Mansion House Fund, and I accordingly telegraphed to you on the 9th instant,§ to reserve a small amount of the fund for this purpose, and to use your discretion in its distribution after communicating with the Governors of neighbouring British Colonies.

3. I am suggesting to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that a copy of the acting Administrator's despatch should be communicated to the French Government, and that they should be informed of the line of action which His Majesty's Government propose to adopt.

4. I cannot doubt that assistance for the French subjects who have taken refuge in St. Lucia will be forthcoming from the fund which has been raised in Paris; and in the meantime, I have been glad to learn that generous help has been given to them from local sources.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

* No. 111.

+ No. 113.

‡ No. 112.

§ Not printed.

No. 125.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR F. M. HODGSON (BARBADOS).

SIR,

Downing Street, June 11, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 17th ultimo,* on the subject of the volcanic eruption in Saint Vincent.

2. I have read your despatch with interest, and I have learned with pleasure of the assistance which has been rendered by Barbados to St. Vincent.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 126.

GOVERNOR SIR A. W. L. HEMMING (JAMAICA) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received June 12, 1902.)

SIR,

King's House, Jamaica, May 27, 1902.

15th May.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith, for your information, the accompanying copy of a letter received by the Colonial Secretary from the Superintendent of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company here, offering free carriage to Martinique and St. Vincent of stores or money by the Royal Mail Steamer "Para," which left here on the 20th.

2. I have caused my appreciation of this generous offer of assistance to be conveyed to Captain Constantine.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS W. L. HEMMING,

Governor.

Enclosure in No. 126.

From the SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY to the
COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company,

8, Port Royal Street, Kingston,

Jamaica, West Indies.

SIR,

IN reference to the grant for the relief of the sufferers by the recent catastrophe in St. Vincent and Martinique, made by the Government of this Colony, I have the honour to offer to His Excellency the Governor, on behalf of my Company, the free carriage of stores or money by the Royal Mail Steamer "Para," sailing on the 20th instant, and shall further be glad to receive anything on the wharf it may be necessary to forward, and at any time it may be convenient to send it.

I have, &c.,

T. CONSTANTINE,

Superintendent.

Hon. Colonial Secretary,
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Kingston.

No. 127.

GOVERNOR SIR A. W. L. HEMMING (JAMAICA) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received June 12, 1902.)

SIR,

King's House, Jamaica, May 28, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith a copy of a telegram* I sent you on the 21st current, and its translation, on the subject of grants from this island to the sufferers by the recent volcanic eruptions in Martinique and St. Vincent.

2. With reference to the concluding part of the telegram, in which I intimated that this Government would be glad to co-operate in any arrangement desired for the settlement in Jamaica of persons from the afflicted districts of St. Vincent, I beg leave to explain that it has appeared to me possible that His Majesty's Government might consider it desirable to consider whether it might not be necessary or of advantage to endeavour to find for some part of the labouring population of St. Vincent a settlement or means of subsistence in islands where the conditions of life appear less precarious. If so it might be possible for the money voted by the Legislative Council of this island to be applied in making preparations for the reception and settlement of such immigrants. In this connection I enclose a copy of a letter received from Mr. William Watson, Planting Attorney of the United Fruit Company in this island, stating that this company would at once find accommodation and work for two or three hundred labourers. If you consider that these suggestions might with advantage be pursued, I would beg leave to suggest that you should authorise the Government of St. Vincent to communicate with me direct on the matter. If not, I shall be glad if you will authorise the Crown Agents to transfer the sum of £750 on account of this Government to the credit of the St. Vincent Relief Fund.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS W. L. HEMMING,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 127.

Mr. WILLIAM WATSON to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

DEAR SIR,

Port Antonio, May 15, 1902.

I HAVE read with great interest your speech on the calamity that has overtaken St. Vincent, and more especially your reference to the visit of the "Sugar Commissioner"; also suggestions that had been made in consequence of the visitation of calamities, and that it might be advisable to draft the unfortunate people away in batches to more favourable parts of the British West Indies. Personally, I thoroughly agree with this view, and to enable the Government to give effect to it, I would say, on behalf of the United Fruit Company, that they would find accommodation and work for two or three hundred of those people at once, as in my opinion whilst Jamaica has its own difficulties at present, yet there is ample opportunity for remunerative work on the island, there being such large tracts of lands still uncultivated. The island being so well favoured with steamships to the northern ports, thus finding ready markets for her products, nothing remains now to bring success and competency but continuous and effective agricultural work.

I am, &c.,

WILLIAM WATSON.

The Hon. S. Olivier, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary,
Kingston.

No. 128.

COLONIAL OFFICE to WAR OFFICE.

SIR,

Downing Street, June 13, 1902.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to state, for the information of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, that in a despatch* relating to the destruction of St. Pierre, Martinique, the Governor of Barbados has brought to his notice the ready and valuable assistance given throughout by Colonel E. B. Booth, Commanding the Troops, and Lieutenant-Colonel E. A. Roche, Royal Army Medical Corps, by whom all available military stores were placed at the disposal of the Government, and by Majors F. Will and G. Bent, both of the Royal Army Medical Corps, who accompanied the relief expedition sent to Martinique.

Mr. Chamberlain desires to add his thanks to those of the Governor for the services rendered by these officers.

I am, &c.,
C. P. LUCAS.

No. 129.

COLONIAL OFFICE to the BOARD OF TRADE.

[Answered by No. 135.]

SIR,

Downing Street, June 13, 1902.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to request that you will be good enough to bring to the notice of the Board of Trade the gallant conduct of Captain E. W. Freeman, of the steamship "Roddam," on the occasion of the destruction of St. Pierre, Martinique.

The Board have, no doubt, already seen accounts of the escape of the "Roddam," but I am to enclose, for their further information, the accompanying extract† from a despatch from the Governor of Barbados, dealing with the occurrence.

Mr. Chamberlain is not aware whether it is in the power of the Board to recognize Captain Freeman's bravery in any way, but he is of opinion that it should not be allowed to pass without recognition, and he would be glad to be informed whether the Board feel able to take any steps in the matter, or, if not, whether they can suggest to the Secretary of State any appropriate method of showing that His Majesty's Government appreciate Captain Freeman's gallantry and devotion.

I am, &c.,
C. P. LUCAS.

No. 130.

COLONIAL OFFICE to THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY.

SIR,

Downing Street, June 13, 1902.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to inform you that in a despatch* relating to the destruction of St. Pierre, Martinique, the Governor of Barbados has requested that the prompt action of Captain Owen, R.N.R., the Local Superintendent of your Company, in placing the Royal Mail Steamship "Solent" at the disposal of the Colonial Government for the purposes of a relief expedition may be brought to the notice of your Directors.

Mr. Chamberlain desires to associate himself with the Governor's expression of appreciation of the service so rendered by Captain Owen.

I am, &c.,
C. P. LUCAS.

No. 131.

COLONIAL OFFICE to FOREIGN OFFICE.

SIR,

Downing Street, June 16, 1902.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant,* transmitting a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Porto Rico, relative to the despatch from Porto Rico of stores for the relief of the distressed inhabitants of Martinique and St. Vincent.

Lord Lansdowne will, no doubt, cause a suitable expression of thanks to be conveyed to the United States Government for their generous assistance.

I am, &c.,

C. P. LUCAS.

No. 132.

GOVERNOR SIR C. A. MOLONEY (TRINIDAD) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received June 18, 1902.)

SIR,

Government House, May 31, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of resolutions of condolence with the inhabitants of St. Vincent and Martinique for the sufferings caused by the recent awful disasters in those islands, and of my covering letters forwarding the same.

I have, &c.,

ALFRED MOLONEY,

Governor.

Enclosure in No. 132.

The GOVERNOR to the GOVERNORS OF WINDWARD ISLANDS AND MARTINIQUE.

SIR,

May 30, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to submit to Your Excellency copies of resolutions passed at a public meeting, and at meetings of the Executive and Legislative Councils of this Colony, expressing the deep sympathy felt by all classes of the community with the inhabitants of St. Vincent and Martinique in the recent awful disasters which have befallen both islands.

I desire to add the expression of my personal sorrow and concern for the sufferings of so many persons under Your Excellency's Government.

I have, &c.,

ALFRED MOLONEY,

Governor.

RESOLUTION passed at Public Meeting held in Port-of-Spain on the 20th May, 1902.

Resolution of Sympathy.

This meeting, the first that has taken place since the dreadful occurrences of the 7th and 8th instant, desires to confirm the telegrams of the Governor conveying the expression of the Colony's heartfelt sympathy with the people of St. Vincent and Martinique, in connection with the terrible and overwhelming catastrophes that have overtaken them.

May 20, 1902.

RESOLUTION by the Executive Council of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Governor and members of the Executive Council of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago have heard, with the deepest sorrow and concern, the heartrending news of the awful disasters that have overtaken St. Vincent and Martinique, and desire to signify the expressions of the Colony's deep sympathy with the sufferers.

May 23, 1902.

RESOLUTION passed by the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago.

The President and members of the Legislative Council of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago have heard with the deepest sorrow and rarest concern the distressing news of the appalling catastrophes that have fallen on the islands of St. Vincent and Martinique, and beg to tender to the sufferers the expression of their heartfelt sympathy.

May 26, 1902.

No. 133.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received June 18, 1902.)

[*Answered by No. 139.*]

(Extract.)

St. Vincent, June 3, 1902.

I have the honour to report that the Government of the United States of America, as soon as it heard of the disaster in this Colony, despatched the United States ship of war "Dixie," with a supply of provisions and clothing and medical comforts, for the relief of the sufferers.

* . * * * *

I attach a copy of the letter I wrote to Captain Berry, and his reply.

Enclosure 1 in No. 133.

GOVERNOR to CAPTAIN BERRY.

SIR,

St. Vincent, May 24, 1902.

I CAN hardly express to you, on behalf of the sufferers from the volcanic eruption in this island, their deep sense of gratitude to the Government of the United States for the very liberal present of clothes, foodstuffs, tents, tools, &c., which you have been commissioned to bring here for their relief in the United States ship of war "Dixie."

2. To you and your officers and men I also tender my warmest thanks for the kind assistance you have rendered on this mission.

3. May I ask that you will kindly forward a copy of this letter to your Government, and convey my personal thanks for the very generous aid you have brought and the offer of your further services in any way that I might desire.

4. The universal feeling of sympathy is most touching, and, thanks to the prompt services rendered, I hope, for the present, the wants of the sufferers are being attended to.

I have, &c.,

R. B. LLEWELYN.

Captain Berry,
United States Navy,
Steamship "Dixie,"
St. Vincent.

Enclosure 2 in No. 133.

CAPTAIN BERRY to SIR R. B. LLEWELYN.

SIR, United States Steamship "Dixie," Second Rate,
Kingstown, St. Vincent, May 26, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your very courteous letter of the twenty-fourth instant, and to thank you for your kindly reference to those under my command and myself, who have been the willing instruments of the United States Government in conveying its presents to the sufferers from the late volcanic eruptions on your beautiful island.

It gives me the greatest pleasure to transmit a copy of your letter to the United States Government, containing the assurance that its efforts have been timely.

Respectfully, &c.,

R. M. BERRY,
Captain,
United States Navy,
Commanding.

His Excellency
Sir Robert B. Llewelyn,
Governor,
Windward Islands.

No. 134.

GOVERNOR SIR F. M. HODGSON (BARBADOS) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received, June 18, 1902.)

SIR, Government House, June 7, 1902.

REFERRING to paragraph 3 of my despatch of the 17th May,* on the subject of the eruption of the Soufrière in St. Vincent on the 6th May, in which I referred to and transmitted a copy of a report made by Professor d'Albuquerque upon the volcanic dust which fell in Barbados, I have the honour to transmit a detailed analysis of the dust, and the results of a mineralogical examination of it, made in the Government Laboratory by Dr. Longfield Smith.

I have, &c.,
F. M. HODGSON.

Enclosure in No. 134.

The following are the results of the mineralogical examination made by Dr. Longfield Smith.

A sieve analysis gave the following result:—

Diameter of Particles.	Percentage.
1 to 5 millimetre ...	0.01
.5 to .35 millimetre ...	3.06
.35 to .20 millimetre ...	7.21
.20 to .15 millimetre ...	66.20
.15 to .10 millimetre ...	0.89
.10 and less millimetre ...	22.63
	<u>100.00</u>

The particles from .5 to .35 millimetre diameter are wholly composed of volcanic glass crowded with gas inclusions and containing small, lath-shaped crystals of felspar and brown flakes, probably of ferric oxide. The gas inclusions are, in many instances, so numerous as to render the particles quite opaque.

The particles of .35 to .2 millimetre diameter are composed partly of similar volcanic glass, and partly of crystals of felspar.

The particles of .2 to .1 millimetre diameter are almost entirely composed of mineral crystals; these minerals consist chiefly of lime-soda felspars and a ferror-magnesian mineral. There is also a quantity of magnetite, some sanidine (a clear, glassy variety of potash felspar) a few splinters of quartz and a very few crystals of a dark blue doubly refracting mineral not yet determined.

The sanidine fragments and crystals exhibit well-marked zonal structure, which is well brought out in polarised light, and some of the crystals contain numerous zonally arranged glass inclusions. The ferror-magnesian mineral is a highly transparent, light-coloured variety of augite, which is remarkable on account of the well-marked pleochroism from light bluish-green to clear yellow which it exhibits. Many of the crystals and splinters exhibit zonal structure and include magnetite; liquid inclusions are also frequent, and these are sometimes zonally arranged.

The particles finer than .1 millimetre are chiefly composed of the comminuted crystal fragments of felspar and augite.

A comparison of this volcanic dust with a sample obtained from the laboratory museum of that which fell in 1812 shows a striking difference between the two. The dust of 1812 is composed of much finer particles, and these are almost wholly volcanic glass.

This points to the eruption of 1902 being of a much more violent nature than that of 1812. It is very rare to find so many mineral particles in volcanic dust scattered so far from the seat of eruption. These are generally sifted out by the wind from the lighter particles of glass. The fact that particles of magnetite, a mineral of specific gravity 5.5 to 6.5 of over .1 millimetre diameter should be found in the dust over 90 miles from the seat of explosion is significant of the prodigious height to which the particles must have been ejected.

Analysis of the Volcanic Dust of 7th May, 1902.

The complete material contained in 100 parts:—

Moisture	...	...	...	...	0.190
Loss on ignition	...	...	...	...	0.060
Alumina	...	...	...	...	21.648
Titanium Oxide	...	...	...	...	1.000
Iron Oxide	...	...	...	...	6.372
Lime	...	...	...	...	10.000
Magnesia	...	...	...	...	4.716
Soda	...	...	...	...	3.551
Potash	...	...	...	...	.675
Phosphoric Anhydride	...	...	...	...	.141
Sulphuric Anhydride	...	...	...	...	.124
Silica (by difference)	...	...	...	...	51.523
					100.000

Of the above the following percentages were soluble in Hydrochloric Acid:—

Alumina	}	...	...	...	12.460
Titanium Oxide	}	...	...	...	
Ferric Oxide	...	...	...	...	2.890
Ferrous Oxide	...	...	...	...	1.630
Lime	...	...	...	...	5.940
Magnesia	...	...	...	...	0.778
Soda	...	...	...	...	1.155
*Potash	...	...	...	...	0.085
†Phosphoric Anhydride	...	...	...	...	0.038
Sulphuric Anhydride	...	...	...	...	0.124
Silica	...	...	...	...	0.108

* Soluble in 1 per cent. citric acid solution, 0.028.

† Soluble in 1 per cent. citric acid solution, 0.022.

No. 135.

BOARD OF TRADE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received June 19, 1902.)

Marine Department, 7, Whitehall Gardens,

SIR,

London, S.W., June 18, 1902.

I AM directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant,* forwarding an extract from a despatch from the Governor of Barbados respecting the gallant conduct of Captain E. W. Freeman, of the Steamship "Roddam," on the occasion of the destruction of St. Pierre, Martinique.

In reply, I am to state, for the information of Mr. Secretary Chamberlain, that the Board have already considered this case and have decided to award to Captain Freeman a piece of silver plate in recognition of the gallantry displayed by him on the occasion in question.

I have, &c.,

WALTER J. HOWELL.

No. 136.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR J. A. SWETTENHAM (BRITISH GUIANA).

SIR,

Downing Street, June 18, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 21st of May,† reporting the vote of \$10,000 by the Combined Court for the relief of the sufferers from the recent volcanic eruptions in St. Vincent and Martinique, and the passing of Ordinances to increase the Stamp Duty on cheques and the Customs duty on rice, in order to raise the amount so expended.

2. I entirely approve of your action in the matter.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 137.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR A. W. L. HEMMING (JAMAICA).

SIR,

Downing Street, June 20, 1902.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 23rd ultimo‡ I have the honour to inform you that the French Government have been informed of the gift made by Jamaica to the sufferers from the Martinique disaster, and that His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris has received from M. Delcassé a request that the warmest thanks of the Government of the Republic and of the sufferers themselves may be transmitted to the Legislative Council of Jamaica.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 138.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN.

SIR,

Downing Street, June 21, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, for your consideration, the accompanying copy of a despatch§ from the Governor of British Honduras, reporting the vote of \$500 for the relief of the sufferers from the volcanic eruption in St. Vincent, of which I have already informed you in my despatch of the 29th of May,|| and suggesting that some of the inhabitants of St. Vincent should be encouraged to emigrate to British Honduras.

2. I shall be glad to receive an expression of your views on this suggestion, and I may refer you to my despatch of the 23rd of May,¶ in which I communicated to you a similar suggestion, made by the Governor of Jamaica.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

* No. 129.

† No. 108.

‡ No. 86.

§ No. 115.

|| Not printed.

¶ No. 85.

No. 139.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN.

SIR,

Downing Street, June 24, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 3rd instant,* relative to the despatch of the United States Ship of War "Dixie," with a supply of provisions and clothing and medical comforts for the relief of the sufferers through the recent disaster in St. Vincent, and to express my warm appreciation of this friendly action on the part of the United States Government.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 140.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR F. M. HODGSON (BARBADOS).

SIR,

Downing Street, July 2, 1902.

WITH reference to paragraph 12 of your despatch of the 17th of May,† I have much pleasure in informing you that the Board of Trade have decided to award a piece of silver plate to Captain E. W. Freeman, of the Steamship "Roddam," in recognition of his bravery on the occasion of the destruction of St. Pierre, in Martinique.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 141.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received July 3, 1902.)

SIR,

St. Vincent, June 14, 1902.

19th May,
1902.22nd May,
1902.26th May,
1902.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches‡ noted in the margin informing me that the following Grants had been voted in the Colonies mentioned:—

Administrator and Government of Seychelles, £200;
The Council of Government of Mauritius, Rs. 5,000;
The Municipal Council of Port Louis, Rs. 500;
The Legislative Board of Turks Islands, £100

for the relief of the sufferers from the volcanic eruption in this island.

2. Will you please convey to the Administrator and Legislative Council of Seychelles, the Government of Mauritius, the Municipal Council of Port Louis, and also to the Legislative Board of Turks Islands my thanks, and the appreciation of the people of St. Vincent for the donations granted and sympathy expressed.

I have, &c.,

R. B. LLEWELYN,

Governor.

* No. 123.

† No. 103.

‡ One only printed : No. 68.

No. 142.

GOVERNOR SIR C. A. MOLONEY (TRINIDAD) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received July 3, 1902.)

SIR,

Government House, June 17, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward, herewith, for your information, six copies of reports of analyses of volcanic dust collected at sea off St. Vincent by Captain Edwards of the S.S. "Louisianian," which have been made by Professor P. Carmody, Government Analyst.

I have, &c.,

ALFRED MOLONEY,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 142.

Government House, June 4, 1902.

The following Reports on Analyses of Volcanic Dust by Professor Carmody, F.I.C., F.C.S., Government Analyst, are published for general information.

By Command,

C. C. KNOLLYS,
Colonial Secretary.

FIRST REPORT.

Analysis of Volcanic Dust collected at sea off St. Vincent by Captain Edwards, S.S. "Louisianian."

Chemical Composition.

Soluble in water:

Chlorine	...	...	...	.05 per cent.	
Potash	...	...	...	trace.	
Soda	...	...	...	trace.	
Lime	...	...	...	trace (large).	
Sulphates	...	...	...	trace (large).	.45 per cent.

Soluble in Acids (3 hours):

Iron oxide as FeO	...	...	5.60.	
Silica, Alumina, etc.	...	...	11.81.	
Lime	...	...	2.94.	
Magnesia	...	...	trace.	
Sulphates	...	...	traces.	
Phosphates	...	...	traces.	20.35 per cent.

Insoluble in Acids:

Silica and Silicates of Iron,				
Lime, etc.	...	...	78.10 per cent.	
Loss on ignition	...	...	.50 per cent.	

99.40 per cent.

REMARKS.—The water solution is neither acid nor alkaline, and consists chiefly of sulphate of Lime with perhaps a small proportion of Silicate of Lime.

The dust consists chiefly of Silica, and Silicates of Iron and Lime. The Iron is mostly a ferrous silicate.

The insoluble in acids was fused and found then to consist of

Silica	...	...	...	...	42.90 per cent.
Iron Silicates, etc.	...	...	...	...	28.35 per cent.
Lime	...	...	...	...	6.85 per cent.

Manurial Value.

This is very low. Potash and phosphoric acid are present only in traces, and nitrogen is altogether absent.

Nearly ten per cent. of Lime must have a beneficial effect on clay soils, and probably accounts for the local belief in the high manurial value of these volcanic ashes. But the mechanical advantages of these ashes in loosening and drying heavy clay soils are appreciable.

Microscopic Appearance.

Under the microscope there are three distinct minerals visible.

1. Clear crystals many showing cross markings.
2. A pale bottle green crystal—a silicate of iron.
3. A black lustrous crystal.

Fineness.

The following proportions remained on sieves of the following sizes:—

Mesher per inch.	Per cent.
30	Nil
40	0.0
50	1.0
60	3.0
70	7.0
80	28.0
90	25.0
100	10.0
Passed through 100 sieve	26.0

Density.

The specific gravity is shown and compared with the corresponding figures for dust from other sources.

Name.	Specific Gravity.	Weight per cubic foot in ounces or per cubic metre in kilog.
Louisianian dust	1.08	1080
Barbados dust	1.23	1235
St. Pierre dust... ..	1.28	1287

It is remarkable that the Barbados dust (sent by the Imperial Department of Agriculture) is nearly as heavy as that which fell at St. Pierre.

Magnetic Condition.

Three and a half per cent. of the dust is attracted by a magnet. This portion is the magnetic oxide of iron and not metallic iron.

It is remarkable that the same percentages were attracted from the Barbados and St. Pierre dusts.

The Barbados dust is similar in chemical and microscopical composition to that from the *Louisianian*; but under the microscope the St. Pierre dust differs from the other two.

SECOND REPORT.

Volcanic Dust.

Comparative Results of Analysis.

	S. S. "Louisianian."	Barbados.	St. Pierre, Martinique.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
SOLUBLE IN WATER :			
Chlorine	0·05	0·09	0·05
Soda	0·05	0·09	0·05
Lime	0·05	(large).	(large).
Sulphates	(large).	(large).	(large).
	0·05	0·09	0·05
	(large).	(large).	trace
Total	0·45	0·45	0·30
SOLUBLE IN ACIDS (TWO HOURS) :			
Iron oxide as FeO	5·60	5·01	3·59
Silica, Alumina, etc.	11·81	6·89	2·01
Lime	2·94	3·36	1·13
Magnesia	trace	·40	·22
Potash	—	·05	·05
Potash	trace	trace	trace
Soda	—	·44	·22
Sulphates	traces	·23	·02
Phosphates	traces	traces	·11
Total	20·35	16·38	7·35
INSOLUBLE IN ACIDS :			
Silica and Silicates of Iron, Lime, &c. ...	78·10	83·30	92·23
Loss on ignition	·50	·40	·40
Total	99·40	100·53	100·28

The insoluble in acids was fused and found then to consist of :—

	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Silica	42·90	48·48	59·80
Iron Silicates, etc.	28·35	31·57	27·73
Lime	6·85	3·25	4·70
Total	78·10	83·30	92·23

Fineness.

The following proportions remained on sieves of the following sizes :—

Mesher per inch.	S. S. "Louisianian."	Barbados.	St. Pierre, Martinique.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
30	Nil	Nil	2
40	Nil	1	12
50	1	1	10
60	3	2	7
70	7	6	11
80	28	41	8
90	25	12	7
100	10	6	4
Passed through 100	26	31	39

REMARKS.—There is practically the same amount soluble in water, and volatile on heating in all three samples.

The proportion soluble in acids differs very considerably. The amount of Lime is greatest in the dust of lowest specific gravity.

As regards fineness the St. Pierre dust contains, as might be expected, coarser particles than the other two.

The St. Pierre dust contains a reddish mineral in the form of short cylinders which is not present in the other two, and there is also a slight difference when viewed by polarised Light.

P. CARMODY, F.I.C., F.C.S.,
Government Analyst.

Laboratory,
31st May, 1902.

No. 143.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received July 3, 1902.)

SIR,

St. Vincent, June 17, 1902.

IN connection with the eruption last month of the Soufrière Volcano in this Island, I attach a copy of a despatch received from Lord Bathurst on the 24th September, 1812, acknowledging the receipt of the President's despatches reporting the eruption that took place in that year.

2. I regret that I cannot find in this Colony the despatches of the 16th and 23rd May, 1812,* which are acknowledged by Lord Bathurst, and I shall be much obliged if you can, without much trouble, procure copies of them for me.

3. I find that the damage done by the eruption in 1812 to growing crops extended for about the same distance as the one last month, but I fancy this eruption has done more serious and lasting damage to the land in the immediate vicinity of the volcano, and the loss of life has been far heavier.

22nd May, 1812. See extracts from Legislative Council.

* *Colonial Office Note.*—These despatches were printed for the House of Commons in May 1813 (No. 182), and are reprinted in the Appendix, page 91.

4. From statistics available of the produce, sugar, rum and cocoa, at that time grown and manufactured in the Island, I find that all the estates in the Carib country practically manufactured the same quantities of sugar and rum in 1813 as they had done in 1812—the eruption took place when crop was over.

5. On the Leeward side, in 1812, Duvallie's, belonging to the Thesiger family, was completely destroyed. Wallibu, now destroyed, recovered in 1814 or 1815, and Frasers, now destroyed, recovered in 1814.

6. I should therefore imagine that this eruption has been far more violent than the one in 1812. The heavy rains following the eruption have caused, and continue to cause, immense damage to the land. The little streams from the mountains have disappeared and the rain is now cutting out fresh water-courses all over the face of the country. The riding-road between Overland and Fancy is cut up by fourteen little water-courses instead of by about seven, and is so damaged by landslips that it is roughly estimated that it will cost £3,000 to repair.

7. I am afraid that the outlook for resuscitating agriculture in the northern part of the Island is at present very black. The heavy rains are supplementing the damage from ash caused by the eruption, and I cannot foretell what the condition of the land will be at the end of this rainy season.

I have, &c.,

R. B. LLEWELYN,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 143.

LORD BATHURST to Mr. President PAUL, St. Vincent.

(No. 3.)

SIR,

Downing Street, July 16, 1812.

I HAVE received and submitted to His Royal Highness The Prince Regent your letters of the 16th and 23rd May, together with their respective inclosures, transmitting an account of the eruption of the Suffrier Mountain on the 30th of the preceding month.

The arrival of intelligence direct from the Island of St. Vincent relieved in some measure the deep anxiety which His Royal Highness felt, in consequence of previous reports of this extraordinary event received from other quarters, and it is a great consolation to His Royal Highness to find that the loss of lives appears to have been much less than that which might have been expected from the violence of the eruption, and which from the first accounts His Royal Highness had been led to apprehend.

I am not at present aware that it will be in the power of His Royal Highness to adopt any measure for the general relief of those whose property has been injured deeply, as he deplors the calamity by which they have been visited.

It will be recommended to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to take into their favorable consideration the cases of any individual sufferers who are indebted to the Crown for the purchase of their Lands, and who would be benefited by delay in the fulfilment of their respective contracts, and I shall be much gratified by any indulgence which their Lordships may be enabled to grant them.

I have transmitted to their Lordships an extract from that part of your despatch of the 23rd May, in which you state that you may probably find it necessary to incur some expense in providing for the temporary support of the Charaibs whose provision grounds have been destroyed, and trusting to your assurances that a strict attention to economy will be observed, I have given my opinion to their Lordships that the Bills drawn by you upon this account should be accepted.

I have, &c.,

BATHURST.

Mr. President Paul,
&c., &c.,

&c.

Enclosure 2 in No. 143.

EXTRACT from Minutes of Meeting of Legislative Council, dated 22nd May, 1812.

This House have instructed the Committee appointed by them that the distribution of the Provisions furnished by the Island of Barbados be confined to the inhabitants residing between Colonarie River to the northward, and from Rosebank Estate, inclusive, to Owia, also including Colonarie Farm, and that the Committee be instructed immediately to collect payment for what they issued of the provisions purchased by Mr. Macdowal to inhabitants without the limits prescribed above, to which we request the concurrence of your Board.

No. 144.

GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received July 3, 1902.)

SIR,

St. Vincent, June 18, 1902.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 24th ultimo,* and your despatch of the 27th ultimo,* informing me that a Scientific Commission has been appointed by the Royal Society to investigate the recent Volcanic Eruption in this Island, I have the honour to report the following preliminary arrangements made on the receipt of your telegram.

2. I applied to Colonel Hay, D.S.O. at St. Lucia, for the services of an officer, and for glass bottles in which to obtain samples of water, and he kindly sent over Lieutenant A. C. Robinson, Royal Engineers.

3. The officer remained here until Drs. Anderson and Flett arrived, when he handed them the samples of water, and a copy of his Report (attached) and accompanied them to a house close to Chateaubelair, which had been kindly lent me by Mr. Richards.

4. Lieutenant Robinson had to return to St. Lucia, so I arranged for Mr. Powell, Curator of the Botanical Station to be attached to the Commission for a short time, and I will give them all the advice and assistance I can.

5. It has been reported to me that on three occasions lately when Mount Pelée in Martinique, or the Soufrière here, has erupted that the "Lagoon" in the Harbour of St. Georges, Grenada, has bubbled up. On the 18th of November, 1867, when there was a tidal wave and earthquake at St. Thomas the waters in the Harbour of St. Georges, Grenada, were disturbed, so I have asked the Commission to visit Grenada if possible before they leave the West Indies.

I have, &c.,

R. B. LLEWELYN,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 144.

Lieutenant A. C. ROBINSON, Royal Engineers, to GOVERNOR, Windward Islands.

SIR,

Kingstown, St. Vincent, June 9, 1902

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that in accordance with instructions received from Your Excellency I was directed by Lieutenant-Colonel Hay, D.S.O. (acting Administrator of St. Lucia), to proceed to St. Vincent for duty in connection with the arrival of the Commission from the Royal Society.

I left St. Lucia on the 3rd instant on the R.M.S. "Tees," whose Captain had been ordered to proceed to Kingstown, after delivering his local mails at Vieuxfort. The steamer started from Castries at 1.30 p.m., and although St. Vincent was soon visible there was too much haze over the sea to prevent any details being made out. After leaving the town of Soufrière, however, the haze lifted and St. Vincent was perfectly distinct.

* Not printed.

At 3.30 p.m. I noticed a small cloud rising from the Soufrière Mountain, it rose vertically increasing in size and was in appearance a cloud of the cumulus type. After rising for some considerable distance it drifted away in a Northerly direction.

This phenomenon was observed more or less continuously until 6.0 p.m., when clouds gathered round the mountain top and further observations were impossible.

A peculiar circumstance was that during the afternoon there were pauses from any activity, and during these pauses the remainder of the island seemed much more distinct and cleaner cut against the sky than when the eruptions were in progress. During several of the outbursts I noticed a pale grey column of smoke or steam rising to the east of the main cloud, and at least once I thought I detected a third on the western side. The "Tees" arrived under the lee of the island, about 10 p.m., but nothing could be distinguished except a strong smell of sulphur as she made her way towards Kingstown.

After receiving instructions from Your Excellency on the 4th instant I went by the local mail boat to Chateaubelair, which I reached at 6 p.m. There was not very much to notice on the way up, but on nearing the journey's end clouds of steam or smoke were seen issuing from the bed of the Wallibou River, and there was a certain amount of steam rising from the mountain sides and crater.

On the 5th instant I proceeded by boat to the village of Fancy. The inhabitants have entirely deserted the place though there is some live stock still there. To the south of the village there is a stream from which I took a sample of water. Sample No. 1.

The Fancy River, 200 yards from the sea, is about 4 feet wide, but I was informed that the heavy rains since the eruption made it impassable by filling up the river bed to a depth of 30 feet. Uprooted trees on the boulders of the river bed confirmed this information. The river was distinctly discoloured and running quite strongly, and I accordingly took a sample of the water. Sample No. 2.

The next water I could find was a spring about 300 yards north of the Baleine river. It apparently issues from the base of a rock about 60 feet above the sea, but the ground was too precipitous to investigate thoroughly. The water was bright, sparkling and cold, the temperature was 74° F., while the surrounding air was 82° F. I could detect nothing in its taste, and it appeared an excellent drinking water. This spring was in existence before the eruption and it appears to have undergone no change. I brought away a sample. Sample No. 3.

My next stopping place was the Falls of Baleine. These are still in existence, and I am told remain practically the same as before the eruption. The water is of a brown colour, with a decided yellow tinge, and the whole gorge smells strongly of sulphur. I am informed that the number of boulders in the river bed has greatly decreased. Sample No. 4 was taken here. Sample No. 4.

I could discover no signs of any water between Baleine and the Wallibou river bed, though the boat was rowed close to the coast the whole way down.

Down the centre of the Wallibou bed there runs a small stream which is more like liquid mud in appearance than water. Unfortunately it was impossible to take a sample of the water as the mud banks at the side would bear no weight. The bed seems to consist of layers of mud superimposed. Those farthest from the stream are more or less firm, and I was able to walk about 200 yards inland. The uppermost bed then came to an end, and I attempted to venture on the one below it. It was, however, impossible, and I sank in it up to my knees. The mud is still very hot, and the nearer the river the softer and hotter it becomes. A little higher up than I could get the banks were throwing up clouds of steam, but I could not perceive any smell of sulphur.

It may be of interest to note that from Fancy to the stream just north of Baleine the cliffs rising from the sea show no signs of any volcanic eruption, the vegetation being uninjured, though in many places the ridges next inland appear to have been burnt as by a bush fire. From this stream to a place called Mears the sea cliffs appear burnt. From Mears southward the volcanic mud shows itself in patches continually increasing in extent till they reach their maximum in the mud flats and mud covered hills of Richmond.

I also took Sample No. 5 of the water in Fitzhughes River, and Sample No. 6 of that in Sharps River, having been informed that both these rivers were rendered undrinkable by the eruption. Samples Nos. 5 & 6.

I enclose a statement giving the meteorological conditions under which each sample was taken.

On Friday the 6th instant, I intended starting in the early morning to try and reach the top of the Soufrière Mountain. Unfortunately there had been some very heavy rain during the night, and it was considered advisable by my guides to postpone our departure till the sun had somewhat hardened the mud which covers the country up to the summit. Accordingly we landed at the Wallibou River at 8.30 a.m., and reached the summit at 11.15. The route at first was over the mud beds that have covered the Wallibou Valley, but after about 45 minutes the slope became much steeper, and "the going" very difficult—the mud being soft and very much inclined to slip. After rising some 500 feet the journey was entirely on the ridges of the successive spurs. The mud here was harder, and the walking easier, save at the places (which were of considerable extent and frequency), where the mud had dried into deep fissures parallel to the ridges—the bottom of these fissures being particularly soft. These tracts of fissure formation were always of a much greater slope than the harder ridges. After reaching a level of 2,000 feet the ground became very bad. The mud was very soft, and we were continually sinking over our ankles in it. (The mud was not hot.) To add to the difficulty of the ascent there was a very strong north-east wind blowing, which rendered our footing on these narrow ridges most insecure, and which brought clouds of sulphurous smoke across our path. This soft mud continued up to the lip of the crater, the height of which was shown by my aneroid to be 2,450 feet above sea level (I checked my aneroid at sea level both before and after the ascent).

The crater was completely filled with a cloud of smoke or steam. After some minutes this cleared away, and the bottom and sides of the crater were distinctly visible. The clearing and filling of the crater with steam was repeated at intervals of about ten minutes. The bottom of the crater contained three small lakes, two of which were of very yellow looking water or mud, with a low wall of mud and boulders separating them. They were quite quiescent. To the right was a very large mound of earth and stones, which divided them from the third. This third pool was the cause of the steam alluded to above, for by walking some distance to the west along the edge of the crater it was seen to be bubbling up with excessive fury, and throwing up liquid mud amidst the steam. I estimated these pools to be 1,800 feet below the lip of the crater.

I was accompanied in the ascent by the Rev. Thomas Huckerby, who informs me that the general formation of the crater is not much changed after taking into consideration the destruction of all vegetable life.

The descent was devoid of difficulty as the sun had considerably dried the mud. The nature of the mud makes me believe that if there are heavy rains in the immediate future the difficulties of the ascent will be so much increased as to render climbing on such a surface a physical impossibility.

I enclose a very rough sketch* of the bottom of the crater, which I managed to make during a period when the smoke had subsided.

I have, &c.,

ALICK C. ROBINSON, Lieutenant,
Royal Engineers.

* Not reproduced.

APPENDIX.

REPORT from Committee on Petition of Persons interested in Estates in the
Island of Saint Vincent.*(Ordered, by the House of Commons, to be printed, 7 May 1813.)*

The Report	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extracts from Letters, stating Losses by the Eruption of The Souffrier Mountain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Description of the Eruption of the Souffrier Mountain, on Thursday night, 30th April, 1812	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

-
- No. 1.—Memorial of several Merchants in London, to H. M. Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, on behalf of several Proprietors of Estates in the Charaib Country, in the Island of St. Vincent; stating the amount of Losses sustained
- No. 2.—Dispatch from Mr. President Paul, administering the Government of St. Vincent, to the Earl of Liverpool; dated 16 May, 1812 (one Enclosure)
- No. 3.—(In Mr. President Paul's Dispatch of 23 May, 1812) Address to His Royal Highness The Prince Regent, from the Council and Assembly of St. Vincent
- No. 4.—Extracts from a Dispatch from Mr. President Paul, administering the Government of St. Vincent, to the Earl of Liverpool; dated 23 May, 1812
-

REPORT.

The Committee to whom the Petition of the several Agents and Attornies, acting on the behalf of certain Proprietors of, and Persons interested in Estates, in the Island of Saint Vincent, of the 18th of February last, was referred;—Have, pursuant to the Order of The House, examined the matter of the said Petition; and have agreed to the following Report:

It appears to Your Committee, from the several Accounts and Documents, which have been laid before Them, from the Secretary of State's Office, together with Copies of private Correspondences of different persons connected with the said Island,—

That the several Allegations in the said Petition are True; and They have annexed hereto, Extracts of Parts of the Papers and Documents referred to.

EXTRACTS, &c.

Extract from a Letter from ROBERT SUTHERLAND, Esq., Proprietor of Estates situate on the banks of the Rebecca River.

"I must now, my dear Sir, request your assistance to present my unfortunate case to Government, with a view to the benevolence of Parliament, that we may be enabled to resettle our Estates.

"Enclosed I send you a copy of the Estimate of Losses, made by myself, and also one altered by the Committee of the Legislature appointed to investigate and enquire into our actual and immediate losses.* If we do not get relief, I fear we must abandon our Estates, and our poor Negroes must be divided into lots, and sold for the benefit of our creditors, and the families torn from each other. As this is a novel and unprecedented case, there never, I believe, having been an Eruption of a Volcano before, where the British Flag was flying, and being an event which no person could foresee or avert, I am in great hopes our application will meet with success."

* See No. 1 annexed to the Report.

Extract from a Letter from WILLIAM MCKENZIE, Esq., Proprietor of a Sugar Estate of The Souffrier Mountain.

"I am greatly distressed in having to inform you of a sad disaster which has befallen us here, the effect of a most dreadful Volcanic Eruption, for the particulars of which, I must refer you to the enclosed printed Account. The Charaib Country, I am concerned to say, has suffered in an extreme degree; the showers of volcanic matter which fell upon it having covered the whole surface of the ground of every Estate in that quarter about ten inches deep, and beat down the greatest part of the 'canes and negroes' provisions, with many of the negro houses; but most providentially, not many lives were lost.

"The Rebecca River, which turned the mills on my Estate, with that of Messrs. Sutherland, Cumming, Cruikshanks and Smith, is completely dried up in consequence of the lava, which has descended into the bed of the river. The proprietors of the Charaib Country, are truly unfortunate on this occasion, as none of the other Estates, with the exception of two or three in the leeward side of the Island, have suffered materially."

Extract from a Letter from ALEXANDER CRUIKSHANKS, Esq., Proprietor of a large Estate, whose Mills were turned by the Rebecca River.

St. Vincent, May 6, 1812.

"You will hear of our dreadful visitation from so many quarters, that I will not presume to give you an historical detail of it, further than stating, that I do not think there has been so violent an Eruption recorded since the destruction of Herculaneum and Pompeii. The Rebecca River and the Walleboa have totally disappeared, not one drop of water being left in the channels of the Rebecca. The lava is fifty to sixty feet, and in some, eighty feet above the bed of the River; and in some places on the other side of the Island, the lava is about one hundred and thirty feet, covering completely a fall in the Walleboa River, which was seventy feet high, not only to the top, but fifty or sixty feet above the top of it, from which the water formerly fell. The grit, sand, and ashes, &c., has fallen on all the Charaib Settlements to the depth of eight or nine inches, and in some places, ten inches, destroying every appearance of vegetation. Whether this load of matter will prove ultimately injurious to the soil, time only can determine. In the meantime the absence of the water alone would put an end to sugar-making; but if we had the water, the canes on all the lands north of the Rebecca are so buried as it were in ruins, that it would be impossible to come at them; besides, the negro houses are so injured, indeed many, very many of them totally destroyed, that it will require all the exertions of the whole strength of the Estates for some months to replace and repair them."

Extract of Letter of EDWARD SHARPE, Chief Justice of St. Vincent.

"The injury already done, and that which must take place from the Souffrier, is very great. The remainder of the present crop is gone, beyond any attempt to retrieve it; and I think very little will be done in 1813, even supposing the river called Rebecca resumes her course."

Description of the Eruption of The Souffrier Mountain, on Thursday night, the 30th April, 1812, in the Island of Saint Vincent.

"The Souffrier Mountain, the most northerly of the lofty chain running through the centre of this Island, and the highest of the whole, as computed by the most accurate survey that has yet been taken, had for some time past indicated much inquietude; and from the extraordinary frequency and violence of Earthquakes, which are calculated to have exceeded two hundred within the last year, portended some great movement or eruption. The apprehension however was not so immediate as to restrain curiosity, or to prevent repeated visits to the crater, which of late had been.

more numerous than at any former period, even up to Sunday last, the 26th of April, when some gentlemen ascended it, and remained there for some time. Nothing unusual was then remarked, or any external difference observed, except rather a stronger emission of smoke from the interstices of the conical hill, at the bottom of the crater. To those who have not visited this romantic and wonderful spot, a slight description of it, as it lately stood, is previously necessary and indispensable to form any conception of it, and to the better understanding the account which follows; for no one living can expect to see it again in the perfection and beauty in which it was on Sunday, the 26th instant.

“About two thousand feet from the level of the sea (calculating from conjecture), on the south side of the mountain, and rather more than two-thirds of its height, opens an immense circular chasm, somewhat exceeding half a mile in diameter, and between four or five hundred feet in depth; exactly in the centre of this capacious bowl, rose a conical hill about two hundred and fifty or three hundred in height, and about two hundred in diameter, richly covered and variegated with shrubs, brushwood and vines, above half way up; and for the remainder, powdered over with virgin sulphur to the top. From the fissures in the cone, and interstices of the rocks, a thin white smoke was constantly emitted, occasionally tinged with a slight bluish flame. The precipitous sides of this magnificent amphitheatre were fringed with various evergreens and aromatic shrubs, flowers, and many Alpine plants. On the north and south sides of the base of the cone, were two pieces of water, one perfectly pure and tasteless, the other strongly impregnated with sulphur and alum. This lonely and beautiful spot was rendered more enchanting by the singularly melodious notes of a bird, an inhabitant of these upper solitudes, and altogether unknown to the other parts of the Island; hence principally called, or supposed to be invisible, though it certainly has been seen, and is a species of the merle.

“A century had now elapsed since the last convulsion of the mountain, or since any other element had disturbed the serenity of this wilderness, than those which are common to the tropical tempest; it apparently slumbered in primeval solitude and tranquillity; and from the luxuriant vegetation and growth of the forest, which covered its sides from the base nearly to the summit, seemed to discountenance the fact, and falsify the records of the ancient volcano. Such was the majestic, peaceful Souffrier, on April the 27th; but we trod on “*ignem repositum ciniri doloso*,” and our imaginary safety was soon to be confounded by the sudden danger of devastation. Just as the Plantation Bells rang twelve at noon, on Monday the 27th, an abrupt and dreadful crash from the mountain, with a severe concussion of the earth and tremulous noise in the air, alarmed all around it. The resurrection of this fiery furnace was proclaimed in a moment by a vast column of thick, black, ropey smoke, like that of an immense glass-house, bursting forth at once and mounting to the sky, showering down sand, with gritty calcined particles of earth and favilla mixed, on all below. This driven before the wind towards Wallibeu and Morne Ronde, darkened the air like a cataract of rain, and covered the ridges, woods and cane pieces, with light gray-coloured ashes, resembling snow when a little sublimed by dust. As the eruption increased, this continual shower expanded, destroying every appearance of vegetation. At night a very considerable degree of ignition was observed on the lips of the crater, but it is not asserted that there was as yet any visible ascension of flame. The same awful scene presented itself on Tuesday; the fall of favilla and calcined pebbles still increasing, and the compact pitchy column from the crater rising perpendicularly to an immense height, with a noise at intervals, like the muttering of distant thunder. On Wednesday, the 29th, all these menacing symptoms of horror and combustion still gathered more thick and terrific for miles around the dismal, and half-obscured mountain. The prodigious column shot up with quicker motion, dilating as it rose, like a balloon. The sun appeared in total eclipse, and shed a meridian twilight over us, that aggravated the wintry gloom of the scene, now completely powdered over with falling particles. It was evident that the crisis was as yet to come; that the burning fluid was struggling for a vent, and labouring to throw off the superincumbent strata and obstructions, which suppressed the ignivorous torrent. At night it was manifest, that it had greatly disengaged itself from its burthen, by the appearance of fire flashing now and then, flaking above the mouth of the crater.

“On Thursday the memorable 30th of April, the reflection of the rising sun on this majestic body of curling vapour, was sublime beyond imagination; any comparison of the glaciers of the Andes, or Cordilleras with it, can but feebly convey an idea

of the fleecy whiteness and brilliancy of this awful column of intermingled and wreathed smoke and clouds. It afterwards assumed a more sulphureous cast, like what we call thunder-clouds, and in the course of the day a ferrugineous and sanguine appearance, with much livelier action in the ascent, a more extensive dilation, as if almost freed from every obstruction. Afternoon, the noise was incessant, and resembled the approach of thunder still nearer and nearer, with a vibration that affected the feelings and hearing: as yet there was no convulsive motion, or sensible earthquake. Terror and consternation now seized all beholders; the Charaibs settled at Morne Ronde, at the foot of the Souffrier, abandoned their houses, with their live stock and everything they possessed, and fled precipitately towards town; the negroes became confused, forsook their work, looked up to the mountain, and as it shook, trembled with the dread of what they could neither understand or describe. The birds fell to the ground, overpowered with showers of favilla, unable to keep themselves on the wing; the cattle were starving for want of food, as not a blade of grass or a leaf was now to be found. The sea was much discoloured, but in nowise uncommonly agitated; it is remarkable, that, throughout the whole of this violent disturbance of the earth, it continued quite passive, and did not at any time sympathize with the agitation of the land. About four o'clock P. M. the noise became more alarming; and just before sunset, the clouds reflected a bright copper colour, suffused with fire. Scarcely had the day closed, when the flame burst at length pyramidically from the crater, through the mass of smoke; the rolling of the thunder became more awful and deafening; electric flashes quickly succeeded, attended with loud claps: and now indeed the hurlyburly began; those only who have witnessed such a sight, can form any idea of the magnificence and variety of the lightning and electric flashes; some forked zig-zag playing across the perpendicular column from the crater; others shooting upwards from the mouth like rockets, of the most dazzling lustre; others like shells, with their trailing fires flying in different parabolas, with the most vivid scintillations from the dark sanguine column, which now seemed inflexible and immovable by the wind. Shortly after seven P. M. the mighty caldron was seen to simmer, and the ebullition of lava to break out on the north-west side. This immediately after boiling over the orifice, and flowing a short way, was opposed by the activity of a higher point of land, over which it was impelled by the immense tide of liquified fire, that drove it on, forming the figure of V, in grand illumination. Sometimes when the ebullition slackened, or was insufficient to urge it over the obstructing hill, it recoiled back, like a reflux billow from the rock, and then again rushed forward, impelled by fresh supplies, and scaling every obstacle, carrying rocks and woods together in its course down the slope of the mountain, until it precipitated itself down some vast ravine, concealed from our sight by the intervening ridges of Morne Ronde. Vast globular bodies of fire were seen projected from the fiery furnace, and bursting, fell back into it, or over it on the surrounding bushes, which were instantly set in flames. About four hours from the lava boiling over the crater, it reached the sea, as we could observe from the reflection of the fire, and the electric flashes attending it. About half-past one, another stream of lava was seen descending to the eastward, towards Rabacca. The thundering noise of the mountain, and the vibration of sound that had been so formidable hitherto, now mingled in the sullen, monotonous roar of the rolling lava, became so terrible, that dismay was almost turned into despair. At this time, the first earthquake was felt, this was followed by showers of cinders, that fell with the hissing noise of hail, during two hours; at 3 o'clock, a rolling on the roofs of the houses, indicated a fall of stones, which soon thickened, and at length descended in a rain of intermingled fire, that threatened at once the fate of Pompeii, or Herculaneum. The crackling and coruscations from the crater, at this period, exceeded all that had yet passed; the eyes were struck with momentary blindness, and the ears stunned with the glomeration of sounds, people sought shelter in cellars, under rocks, or any where, for every where was nearly the same; and the miserable negroes flying from their huts, were knocked down or wounded, many killed in the open air; several houses were set on fire; the estates situated in the immediate vicinity seemed doomed to destruction; had the stones that fell been proportionably heavy to their size, not a living creature could have escaped without death: these having undergone a thorough fusion, they were divested of their natural gravity, and fell almost as light as pumex, though in some places as large as a man's head. This dreadful rain of stones and fire lasted upwards of an hour, and was again succeeded by cinders from

three till six o'clock in the morning; earthquake followed earthquake almost momentarily, or rather the whole of this part of the Island was in a state of continued oscillation, not agitated by shocks vertical or horizontal, but undulated, like water shaken in a bowl.

"The break of day, if such it could be called, was truly terrific: darkness was only visible at eight o'clock, and the birth of May dawned like the day of judgment. A chaotic gloom enveloped the mountain, and an impenetrable haze hung over the sea, with black sluggish clouds of a sulphureous cast; the whole Island was covered with favilla, cinders, scorix, and broken masses of volcanic matter. It was not until the afternoon the muttering noise of the mountain sunk gradually into a solemn yet suspicious silence.—Such were the particulars of this sublime and tremendous scene, from commencement to catastrophe: to describe the effects is, if possible, a more difficult, and truly most distressing task.

* * Such of our Correspondents as are desirous to procure Copies of the above interesting Narrative (separately printed), will be pleased to call at the R. P. Office, when, by paying a small gratuity, Copies will be delivered.—St. Vincent: printed by J. T. Calliard."

An Estate, belonging to Mr. Thesiger, entirely covered with the matter thrown out from the Volcano; the sugar-works totally covered, and not discernible; all the mules, sheep, and horned cattle destroyed; nine negroes killed, the rest escaped over the mountains, and came to town very much cut and bruised. There was in the work a considerable quantity of sugar and rum.

An Estate belonging to Messrs. Grants, very much injured. The large river Waleboo completely dried up, by which the water-mill and works are rendered useless for the present.

The river Rabbacca in the Charaib Country, entirely dried up: this river turned five water-mills on large sugar estates. In consequence of the want of water, the works are rendered useless, and very great loss sustained. The boiling-house on one of these estates, was thrown down by an earthquake.

The Manager's house on Grand Sable Estate, belonging to Colonel Brown, was thrown down by the weight of matter that fell upon it, consisting of stones and sand, by which accident a gentleman of the name of Philips was killed.

No. 1.

COPY OF MEMORIAL of several Merchants in London, on behalf of several Proprietors of Estates in the Charaib Country, in the Island of St. Vincent; stating the amount of Losses sustained.

To the Right Honourable Earl Bathurst, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Memorial of the undersigned Merchants in London, on behalf of the Proprietors of Lands in the Charaib Country, in the Island of St. Vincent.

Humbly Sheweth,

That Your Lordship's Memorialists occupy certain Lands in that district of His Majesty's island and colony of St. Vincent, where the Charaibs formerly resided, and in the neighbourhood of the Souffrier Mountain; most of which, previous to the 1st May last, was in the highest state of cultivation; namely,

Hogsheads.	£	Ten Sugar Estates, annually producing generally
Sugar, 3,000, £20 ...	60,000	upwards of 3,000 hogsheads of sugar, 800 puncheons
Puncheons.		of Rum and 1,200 puncheons of Molasses. 3 Coffee
Rum, 800, £10 ...	8,000	Settlements, producing 150,000 pounds of Coffee and
Molasses, 1,200, £5 ...	6,000	20,000 pounds of Cocoa. 7 Provision Pens, whereon,
Coffee, 150,000, 7d. ...	4,375	and on the Sugar Estates, were raised provisions for
Cocoa, 20,000, 1s. ...	1,000	the negroes, pasture for the cattle and other articles,
Other articles ...	1,000	creating a new property every year, amounting, at
Negro Provisions for 2,500	25,000	the most moderate computation, to the sum of one
Negroes, £10.		hundred and ten thousand pounds, calculated at the
Provender for cattle ...	4,625	colonial prices in the island.
	<u>£110,000</u>	

That on the night of Thursday the 30th April and on the morning of Friday the 1st May, the Volcano of the Souffrier Mountain, which for some days before had exhibited symptoms indicating the approach of an eruption, burst with a degree of violence which no language can describe; the noise from the Mountain could only be compared to the discharge of ten thousand cannon, accompanied by repeated earthquakes, and the loudest peals of thunder ever experienced in tropical climates; accompanied by showers of hot burning stones, sand, scoria, and other volcanic substances.

This tremendous scene of horror continued from 12 at night until 4 o'clock in the morning, with the most vivid and incessant flashes of lightning; and had not a heavy rain providentially fallen on the preceding evening, which caused the first eruption of sand to adhere to the buildings and the canes, the greatest part of the island must have been laid waste by fire.

The result has been, that ten Sugar Estates, the finest in the island, three Coffee and Cocoa Settlements, and seven Provision Pens, have been completely covered with stones, sand and scoria, and other volcanic substances, 10 inches deep, over a surface of more than 6,000 acres; the canes almost totally destroyed, so as to render it hopeless in most instances to expect any crop next year. The ground provisions upon which the negro labourers were chiefly fed, also destroyed, without a blade of grass for the support of the horses, mules and cattle. Two of the principal rivers of the island, by which mills on several of the most valuable estates were worked, have been totally dried up. The negro habitations and other more valuable buildings, either totally destroyed or greatly injured, while serious doubts are entertained whether vegetation can be restored, without a great expense, in formerly fine and fertile lands in the Charaib Country, in consequence of the immense quantities of vitrified sand, scoria, and other volcanic matter which covers the surface.

It is however the anxious desire of Your Lordship's Memorialists to make every effort to render this valuable property useful to themselves and the empire at large. To the Parent State it has hitherto produced considerable advantages; and the industry of Your Lordship's Memorialists, now fatally checked, held out a fair prospect of these advantages increasing yearly; namely,

To the ship-owner, the freights which centred in Great Britain on 3,000					
hogsheads at £6 6s. per hhd. produced ...	...	...	...	...	£18,900
To the ship-master, primage at 6d. per hhd. produced ...	...	...	...	...	75
To the revenue officers and labourers, 10s. 6d. per hhd. produced ...	...	...	...	...	1,575
To the Dock Company, &c., 13s. 6d. per hhd. produced ...	...	...	...	...	2,025
To the underwriter, 35s. per hhd. produced ...	...	...	...	...	5,250
To the brokers, 4s. 8d. per hhd. produced ...	...	...	...	...	700
To the consigners, 23s. 4d. per hhd. produced ...	...	...	...	...	3,500
					£32,025
And to the Revenue, 14 cwt. per hhd. at 27s. is £18 18s. per hhd. ...					56,700
Of which last sum, taking the average during the preceding 5 years, about					
£25,000 a year fell upon the planters, exclusive of rum and other articles,					
which may be estimated at ...					10,000
and which also centred in the Parent State					
Total ...					£98,725

Hard and deplorable as has been the lot of Your Lordship's distressed Memorialists, under this severe visitation of Divine Providence, the injury sustained is not confined to them alone. The Parent State shares the calamity, while the power and ability to render this valuable property again productive, rests alone with the Legislature of the United Kingdom, whose benevolence has never been appealed to in vain, under circumstances far less calamitous than the present, and where no ulterior advantages (as in the present case) could possibly result from the aids which have been repeatedly afforded, even to the neighbouring islands, in cases where the devastations of an invading army had occasioned loss to individuals.

Your Lordship's Memorialists would humbly represent, that the present case is not only novel in its nature, but unexampled in any of His Majesty's dominions for much more than a century. It is a calamity which no human exertion could avert. It is a contingency which could not have been contemplated when the chief part of

the lands in question were purchased from the Crown, four years ago, at prices far exceeding any of the lands in His Majesty's Colonies in the West Indies, and which must now be rendered useless and unproductive, unless the benevolence of the Legislature shall enable your Memorialists (now without credit, and without any surplus funds, in consequence of the low price of sugars for the last six years) to encounter the difficulties which are opposed to the renovation of the soil, and the rebuilding the houses and erections which have been destroyed.

Your Lordship's Memorialists would further humbly represent, that although certain Commissioners appointed by the Legislative Body of the Colony of St. Vincent, on a cursory view of the injury sustained by Your Lordship's Memorialists in their respective estates, have estimated the total amount at £79,045 5s. sterling, yet these Commissioners candidly state that they have reason to believe that the eventual injury which must necessarily arise from this calamity will far exceed the amount of the present statement, and that the particulars of the same, when it can be hereafter ascertained, will be submitted to the consideration of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

Your Lordship's Memorialists are grieved to be obliged to state, that the injury they have sustained very far exceeds the Estimate above stated; and further, that they rest their hopes entirely on the benevolence of His Majesty's Government, and the Legislature of the Parent State, for the ability to resume their agricultural labour, so as to enable them to render their estates productive to the empire at large, and to enable them, by their future exertions and industry, to do justice to their creditors in Great Britain.

Your Lordship's Memorialists would therefore humbly pray, that their distressed case may be taken into consideration, and such relief granted as shall appear to be adequate to the sufferings to which this severe visitation of Providence has subjected them: and your Petitioners shall ever pray.

(Signed)

SIMON FRASER, HOUSTON & Co.
BROOKE, STRUTH & ROSE.
JOHN ROBLEY & Co.
JOS. MARRYAT.
D. H. & J. A. RUCKER & Co.
RICH. THO. NEAVE.
LANG, CHAUNCEY & LUCAS.
GEORGE BLACKMAN.

No. 2.

Copy of Dispatch from Mr. President PAUL, Administering the Government of Saint Vincent, to the EARL OF LIVERPOOL; dated 16th May, 1812.

MY LORD,

Government House, Saint Vincent.

I HAVE the honour to inform Your Lordship of a most dismal and destructive accident that took place here on Thursday night, the 30th ultimo, by an eruption of the Souffrier Mountain, situated in the north quarter of this Island: the printed description here enclosed* mentions several particulars; and I have stated on the back of this paper,† some further information of the loss sustained by this alarming calamity.

The noise was so great as to be heard so far to the north as the Island of Antigua, a distance of five degrees; and in Barbadoes, directly to the east, and Trinidad to the south, the noise was so distinctly heard as to induce the Commanders of the forces to have the Regulars and Militia both under arms, conceiving it to be a naval engagement very near at hand.

On Saturday and Sunday the 2nd and 3rd May, the negroes were so alarmed and terrified, that they all flocked to Town for relief, and unfortunately at the time, there was not any dry provisions to be bought in the Island. This called for some immediate remedy. I collected together what members of the Legislature were about the Town, and a vessel was immediately dispatched to Barbadoes, on Sunday the 3rd instant, with a letter from me to the Governor, to procure relief. Mr. Macdowal, our Post-master, very readily volunteered to manage this business, and returned

* On pages 92-95.

† On page 95.

[Colonial Office Note.—The enclosures in this old Parliamentary Paper, were printed in front of the Despatches.]

in a few days with a temporary supply. His Excellency Sir George Beckwith was very active in giving his assistance, and the Legislature of Barbadoes most humanely voted a sum of two thousand pounds to be applied in the purchase of provisions to be sent down immediately, so that the dread of famine is for the present done away.

Your Lordship will see by the printed detail, that the Charaibs settled at Morne Ronde were obliged to fly rapidly to save their lives. I believe they had it not in their power to take any of their effects of consequence with them: these, as well as the Yellow Charaibs settled at Owia, have had their provision grounds totally destroyed. At a meeting of the Legislature held on the 5th instant, I applied for some relief to those people; the answer was, that their own distresses were so great that they had it not in their power to comply with my request, and referred me to an application to the Commander-in-Chief of the Forces, to get a supply from the King's Stores; I immediately wrote on this subject to General Beckwith, and received for answer, that it was out of his power to assent to any application. Under these circumstances, I beg leave to entreat Your Lordship to take this case into your consideration; perhaps necessity may oblige me to incur some expense on account of these people, which I hope His Majesty's Ministers will assent to, and give orders for the payment: they are in number, including women and children, about sixty of Black Charaibs, and thirty-eight Yellow; the Black Charaibs are at present without any settled place of residence. Your Lordship may rest assured that I shall not incur any expense that it is possible to avoid.

I have the honour to be, &c.,
ROBT. PAUL.

No. 3.

Copy of Address to His Royal Highness the PRINCE REGENT, from the COUNCIL AND ASSEMBLY OF ST. VINCENT.

To His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

We, the Members of the Council and Assembly of the Island of St. Vincent, request Your Royal Highness's most gracious attention to the situation to which some of the inhabitants of this Colony have been reduced, by an unexpected and destructive eruption of a Volcano in this Island, call The Souffrier.

We will not trespass upon Your Royal Highness's patience, by an attempt to describe this awful event, but merely state, that it has overwhelmed and nearly utterly destroyed several Plantations, and done very important injury to others; the contents of the Volcano having covered the earth for a considerable depth, and entirely stopped or absorbed the springs of two of the largest rivers in the Colony, from which their mills were supplied with water.

This Statement, made by persons entirely disinterested in the above Estates, is at present unavoidably imperfect, as it is impossible to ascertain the permanent injury done to the soil, or even the probability of the streams returning through their former channel.

We do not presume to point out any sources or means of compensation or assistance, humbly confiding in Your Royal Highness's wisdom and benevolence, to adopt such measures as may be deemed best suited to the distressed state of the sufferers, some of whom are considerably indebted to Government for the purchase of their lands.

We humbly beg leave to subjoin an Estimate of the actual Losses sustained by the sufferers, amounting to Seventy-nine thousand and forty-five pounds five shillings; though we have reason to believe that the eventual injury which must necessarily arise from this calamity, will far exceed the amount of the present Statement, the particulars of which, when the same shall have been hereafter ascertained, will be submitted to Your Royal Highness's consideration.

JAMES BRUCE, President.
E. SHARPE, Speaker.

Shri Brihad Bhartiya Samaj

on 24 February, 2020

Estimate of the Losses within referred to:

	£	s.	d.
Alexander Clunes	250	0	0
Two Valleys	7,800	0	0
J. Dermot	508	0	0
Rabacca Estate	4,700	0	0
F. Cruickshank	150	0	0
R. Brown	3,718	0	0
Langley Park	8,064	0	0
Thomas Dickson	577	0	0
Lot 14. A. Cumming	6,974	0	0
Thomas Brown	7,392	0	0
Hy. Charles	103	0	0
H. Haffey	1,100	5	0
W. M'Kenzie	4,006	0	0
Richmond Estate	3,528	0	0
R. Sutherland	19,378	0	0
J. W. Carmichael	820	0	0
Thos. Fraser	1,262	10	0
Wallibou	8,261	0	0
John Low	378	10	0
Riddoch	75	0	0
Sterling ...	£79,045	5	0

JAMES BRUCE, President!
E. SHARPE, Speaker.

No. 4.

Extract from a Dispatch from Mr. President PAUL, Administering the Government of St. Vincent, to the EARL OF LIVERPOOL; dated 23rd May, 1812.

"I had the honour of writing Your Lordship by the last packet, mentioning the dismal and destructive accident that took place here on Thursday night, the 30th ultimo, by an Eruption of the Souffrier Mountain, situated in the north-west quarter of this Island.

"I beg leave to enclose Your Lordship a Statement* of the Losses sustained by this Eruption, addressed to His Royal Highness The Prince Regent, humbly confiding in His Royal Highness's wisdom and benevolence to adopt such measures as may be deemed best suited to the distressed state of the sufferers.

"I use the freedom to request that Your Lordship will have the goodness to lay this Statement before His Royal Highness The Prince Regent."

* No. 3.